

Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations A REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION

Brussels, 22nd of May 2017
Committee of the Regions

In the context of the anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the 2018 Year for Cultural Heritage, European regions aim to contribute to the Joint Communication "Towards an EU strategy for International Cultural Relations", and the next EU Council decision.

Cultural diversity is a fundamental value of the EU. Recently a change in the paradigm towards recognition of culture as a crucial sector for European social and economic development and as a driver for growth, has taken place. In this process partnership is a key tool to achieve success. Partnerships means working together with the multiple actors involved at the different institutional levels as well as with the civil society. In this regard, regions have a crucial role to play through their international and European relations and territorial specialisation and expertise. In addition, regions are better placed to protect and foster their own cultural diversity.

Building both on the experience of European regions and of the representatives from the EU institutions, international organisations, cultural stakeholders and the European regions themselves to discuss on the best way to work together and contribute in close cooperation towards a cross-sectoral and territorial approach to culture.

The conference will address the issue of the international cultural relations focusing on the leading role of the regions. Regions are, indeed, essential actors to preserve and valorize the cultural diversity or their territorial expertise among the European Union, but also to disseminate the future EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations abroad. The next Culture EU Council (23rd May) is going to adopt a Draft Council conclusions on a strategic approach to international cultural relations, and the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions are leading their positions too.

The event is promoted by **Regional Initiative for Culture and Creativity (RICC)** is an informal European network comprised of 25 regional governments, led by the Basque Country, Emilia-Romagna and Friuli Venezia Giulia. RICC is an EU platform driven by representatives from Brussels offices working in close cooperation with decision makers and experts from their Regions. Its aim is to provide regional governments and territorial stakeholders with a EU network, with three objectives: to advocate on cultural and creative policies, to participate in relevant EU funding programmes, and to work under the Smart Specialisation RIS3 guidance.



Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations A REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION

Brussels, 22nd of May 2017
Committee of the Regions

Agenda

9h00 Registration

09h30 Welcome and Introduction

Chair: **Mr Walter ZAMPIERI**, Head of Unit, DG EAC, European Commission
Mrs Lorenza BADIELLO, Head of the Delegation to the EU, Emilia-Romagna
Mrs Marta MARIN, Basque Government Delegate to the EU

09h45 Setting the context

Prof. Alberto MELLONI, Director of the John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies,
Chair holder of the Unesco Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace at the University of
Bologna

10h00

Keynote speech

Mr Rodrigo BALLESTER, Member of Cabinet of Tibor Navracsics,
Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

10h15

The Regional perspective

Mr Apostolos TZITIKOSTAS, rapporteur CoR Opinion "Towards an EU
strategy for international cultural relations"

Prof. Patrizio Bianchi, Regional Minister for European policies, Emilia-Romagna

Mr Bingen ZUPIRIA, Regional Minister for Culture and Linguistic Policy, Basque Country

Mrs Monica BARNI, Vice-President and Regional Minister for Culture, Research and University, Tuscany

Mr Gianni TORRENTI, Regional Minister for Culture, Sport and Solidarity, Friuli Venezia Giulia

Mrs María Teresa LORENZO, Regional Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Canary Islands

11h40

The Institutional perspective

Mr Paolo FONTANI, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels and
UNESCO Representative to the European Institutions, UNESCO

Mr Andrew MURRAY, Director of EUNIC Global, the European Union National
Institutes for Culture

Mr Diego MARANI, Cultural policy coordinator, European External Action Service

12h15

The European Parliament contribution to the Strategy

Mrs Silvia COSTA, MEP, Own initiative report co-rapporteur for "Towards an EU
strategy for international cultural relations", European Parliament

12h30

Conclusions

Mrs Lotte KNUDSEN, Director "Human rights, global
and multilateral issues", European External Action
Service- European Commission

working language: English, Italian and Spanish



Regional
Initiative
for Culture
and Creativity



European Committee
of the Regions