

Union action for the European capitals of culture for the years 2020 to 2033: inclusion of EFTA /EEA countries

2016/0186(COD) - 13/06/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 606 votes to 54, with 6 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014 /EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, amended the Commission proposal.

Parliament stated that Decision No 445/2014/EU aims at:

- **safeguarding and promoting the richness and the diversity of cultures in Europe** and at highlighting the common features they share while increasing citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area, thus **encouraging mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue**, and **bringing common cultural heritage to the fore**;
- fostering the contribution of culture to the long-term development of cities, which can involve their surrounding areas, in accordance with their respective strategies and priorities, with a view to supporting **smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**.

The amended text also stressed that European capitals of culture make a crucial contribution to promoting the values of the Union.

Moreover, the text stated that networking activities should be further encouraged between past, present and future cities holding the title of European Capital of Culture, in order to **foster the exchange of experiences** and good practices.