

The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU

2020/2261(INI) - 20/10/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 543 votes to 50, with 107 abstentions, a resolution on the situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU.

Members recalled that culture, art, cultural heritage and cultural diversity are of great value to European society and should be encouraged and supported. The cultural and creative sectors and industries (CCSI) contribute substantially to the common European identity.

The containment measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have severely undermined the fragile cultural and creative ecosystem. The CCSI experienced losses in turnover of over 30 % for 2020 – a cumulative loss of EUR 199 billion – with the music and performing arts sectors experiencing losses of 75 % and 90 % respectively.

Recognition of culture and support for the cultural sector

Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to recognise the intrinsic value of culture and to translate this recognition into **adequate and continuous financial and structural support**.

Regretting that cultural activity has often been considered non-essential, Members called for immediate assistance and all necessary emergency measures, but also to reflect on an orderly relaunch of this vital sector, providing structural support not only through innovation programmes and budgetary resources, but also through learning opportunities in this field for the younger generation.

The Commission is invited to develop an industrial policy framework for the SICCC ecosystem into a coherent, competitive and long-term strategy to enhance its competitiveness and strategic value for the European economy and the European way of life.

Parliament called on the Commission and Member States to include culture in national recovery and resilience plans and to earmark **at least 2%** of the budget envelope of the Recovery and Resilience Facility to culture.

Encouraging cross-border mobility

Parliament called for the recognition of the European added value of cross-border cooperation and the **elimination of obstacles to cross-border mobility** within the EU and with non-EU countries for artists and cultural professionals.

Members called on the Commission and Member States to provide authors, performers and creative professionals with clear information on mobility opportunities and, where necessary, to review administrative requirements in all Member States, including visas, taxation, social security and access to training and recognition of artistic education qualifications.

The resolution suggested the creation of **mobility information points** in each Member State and the establishment of programmes specifically dedicated to the mobility of young creators and innovators. It recommended greater synergy between the culture and education sectors and the promotion of greater participation of artistic and cultural schools and institutions in activities under Erasmus+.

Copyright revenues and streaming platforms

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted artists' dependence on dominant digital platforms, jeopardising the stability of income for some artists and creators who were mainly dependent on public events.

Concerned that in this new business model many artists and creators cannot secure the same amount of income, Members called on the Commission to assess the situation and **take concrete measures** to ensure that revenues are duly and fairly distributed to all creators, artists and right holders.

European statute for artists

As atypical employment is common place in the media and cultural sector, Parliament called on the Commission to propose a European Status of the Artist, setting out a **common framework for working conditions** and minimum standards common to all EU countries through the adoption or application of a number of coherent and comprehensive guidelines with respect to, inter alia, contracts, means of collective representation and management, social security, sickness and unemployment insurance, pension schemes, direct and indirect taxation.

Members encouraged Member States to aim for upward convergence to establish minimum standards for artists and cultural professionals. They called for **full access to social protection for artists and cultural professionals**, regardless of their professional status, including access to unemployment benefits, health care and pensions.

The Commission is encouraged to take the broadest possible approach to **ensuring access to collective bargaining** for the self-employed, including artists and cultural workers, and to continue to assess the existing state aid rules and their application to the cultural and creative sectors and industries.

Artistic freedom

Parliament called on Member States to fulfil their duty and obligation to promote and defend artistic freedom in order to enforce the fundamental right to freedom of expression and to ensure that European citizens can freely enjoy artistic creations and participate in culture. The Commission should sanction Member States that do not comply with their obligations.