Cultural industries

2002/2127(INI) - 04/09/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Myrsini ZORBA (PES, Greece) on the cultural industries. (Please see the summary of 08/07/03.) Parliament asked the Commission to carry out an in-depth study on a European map of cultural industries. The map should concentrate on cultural, economic, legal, technological and educational aspects, and pay attention also to the implications linked to the enlargement of the EU. The map should contain data on employment, intellectual property rights, index of competitiveness, new products and exports. Lastly, it should be submitted to the appropriate professional bodies and associations for a permanent consultation. Moving on to funding, Parliament called for a revision of the "de minimis" rules on state aids to take account of the unique situation pertaining to SMEs in the cultural sector, in particular those based in peripheral areas. It urged the Commission and the Member States to take account of the cultural industries' specificities when assessing the compliance of national or European supportive measures with the rules of the EU internal market, as well as to provide adequate financing of SMEs in the cultural field, particularly in the start-up phase. Member States should examine ways in which to assist the setting-up and growth of SMEs in the cultural sector through taxation policy, language quotas and other policy instruments. Finally, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to remove the VAT discrimination amongst cultural products by placing music in Annex H of the VAT directive.