

Basic information	
<b>2016/0186(COD)</b>  COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Union action for the European capitals of culture for the years 2020 to 2033: inclusion of EFTA/EEA countries	
Amending Decision No 445/2014/EU <a href="#">2012/0199(COD)</a>	
<b>Subject</b>  4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>CULT</b> Culture and Education	FISAS AYXELÀ Santiago (PPE)	08/09/2016
		Shadow rapporteur  DRĂGHICI Damian (S&D)  PROCTER John (ECR)  GIMÉNEZ BARBAT María Teresa (ALDE)  NÍ RIADA Liadh (GUE/NGL)  TRÜPEL Helga (Verts/ALE)  BILDE Dominique (ENF)	
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>  <b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs	Rapporteur for opinion  The committee decided not to give an opinion.	Appointed
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3556	2017-07-17
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	NAVRACSICS Tibor	
European Committee of the Regions			

Key events				
Date	Event	Reference	Summary	
17/06/2016	Legislative proposal published	COM(2016)0400 	Summary	
22/06/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading			
28/02/2017	Vote in committee, 1st reading			
28/02/2017	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee			
09/03/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0061/2017	Summary	
13/03/2017	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)			
15/03/2017	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)			
30/05/2017	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations			
13/06/2017	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0252/2017	Summary	
13/06/2017	Results of vote in Parliament			
17/07/2017	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading			
13/09/2017	Final act signed			
13/09/2017	End of procedure in Parliament			
15/09/2017	Final act published in Official Journal			

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/0186(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amending Decision No 445/2014/EU 2012/0199(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 167-p5
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/8/06874

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee draft report		PE594.103	21/11/2016	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE597.744	01/02/2017	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0061/2017	09/03/2017	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0252/2017	13/06/2017	Summary

#### Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00025/2017/LEX	13/09/2017	

#### European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2016)0400 	17/06/2016	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2017)477	12/07/2017	

#### National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2016)0400	04/08/2016	

#### Final act

Decision 2017/1545  
OJ L 237 15.09.2017, p. 0001

Summary

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

2016/0186(COD) - 13/09/2017 - Final act

PURPOSE: to amend Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2017/1545 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.

CONTENT: [Decision 445/2014/EU](#) sets out the framework for selection, designation and monitoring of the cities to be awarded the title of **European Capitals of Culture** from 2020. European Capitals of Culture make a crucial contribution to promoting the values of the Union.

The European Capitals of Culture initiative aims to:

- **promote 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.
- **foster 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.

Currently, the action applies to the candidate or potential candidate countries for accession to the European Union, provided that they participate in the 'Creative Europe' programme or in subsequent Union programmes at the date of publication of the call for applications.

The objective of amending Decision 2017/1545 is to **allow access to the action to the countries of the European Free Trade Association which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EFTA / EEA countries)**, namely Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The Decision provides that:

- cities in EFTA/EEA countries, in candidate countries and in potential candidates which participate in the Creative Europe Programme or in the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture at the date of publication of the call for submission of applications, may apply for the title for one year in the framework of an open competition organised in accordance with the calendar set out in the Annex;
- cities in EFTA/EEA countries, in candidate countries and in potential candidates shall only be allowed to participate in **one competition** during the period from 2020 to 2033;
- each EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate shall only be allowed to **host the title once** during the period from 2020 to 2033.

As the calls for submission of applications need to be published at the latest 6 years before the year of the title, a candidate country, potential candidate or EFTA/EEA country should host the European Capital of Culture in **2028** instead of 2027 so as to allow those countries to negotiate their participation in the Union programme supporting culture subsequent to the Creative Europe Programme for the period 2021 to 2027.

**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.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 5.10.2017.

## 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.

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

2016/0186(COD) - 17/06/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to amend [Decision No 445/2014/EU](#) establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.

PROPOSED ACT: Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: in comparison with [previous Decision No 1622/2006/EC](#), Decision No 445/2014/EU extends the action to candidate countries and potential candidates to EU membership, providing that they participate in the Creative Europe Programme or in the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture at the date of publication of the call for applications.

As a result, every third year starting from 2021 (i.e. in 2021, 2024, 2027, 2030 and 2033), cities from candidate countries or potential candidates may hold the title.

However, Decision No 445/2014/EU does **not include European Free Trade Association countries which are parties to the Agreement** on the European Economic Area ("EFTA/EEA countries") (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein).

In order to reinforce the cultural links between the European Union and EFTA/EEA countries, it is proposed to modify Decision No 445/2014/EU so as to make it possible for cities from EFTA/EEA countries which participate in the Creative Europe Programme or in the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture, to **apply for the ECOC title**.

Furthermore, the inclusion of EFTA/EEA countries would also be in line with Article 81 of the EEA Agreement and Article 13 of its Protocol 31 on the cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms.

CONTENT: in its proposal, the Commission proposes:

- to **open the ECOC action to the participation of cities from EFTA/EEA countries** providing that these countries participate in the Creative Europe Programme or in the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture at the date of publication of the call for submission of applications;
- in this perspective, to extend the open competition for cities from candidate countries/potential candidates to cities from EFTA/EEA countries;
- to have an ECOC title in a city from a candidate country/potential candidate or an EFTA/EEA country in 2028 instead of 2027 so as to make it possible for these countries to negotiate their participation in the Union programme supporting culture that will follow Creative Europe for the period 2021 to 2027 before the Commission publishes the relevant call for submission of applications at the latest six years before the year of the title;
- to modify the calendar in the Annex of Decision No 445/2014/EU accordingly.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:** the Commission's proposal has no direct budgetary implication, as the Melina Mercouri Prize and the costs of the members of the expert panel designated by Union institutions and bodies are covered by the existing resources of the Creative Europe programme for the 2014-2020 financial framework, or will be covered by the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture for the years after 2020.

Furthermore, the proposal will not result in a higher number of European Capitals of Culture over the period from 2020 to 2033 because the cities from EFTA/EEA countries will compete with cities from candidate countries/potential candidates which were already part of the competition.

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

2016/0186(COD) - 09/03/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted the report by Santiago FISAS AYXELÀ (EPP, ES) 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 committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

**Aim:** Members stressed that promoting culture shall be a **priority** for the Union since it is fundamental for human development, stronger political integration and growth in aggregate income.

Union action shall:

- encourage mutual understanding and **intercultural dialogue** and bring common cultural heritage to the forefront;
- foster the contribution of culture to the **smart, sustainable and inclusive development** of cities and their surrounding areas in accordance with their respective long-term strategies and priorities;
- highlight the **richness and diversity** of European cultures and the features those cultures share, while promoting better mutual understanding and a sense of belonging among European citizens;
- have a positive impact in cultural terms, while **boosting tourism** and fostering the development of cities across Europe.

Members stressed the important role played by the European Capitals of Culture in promoting Union values.

**Participating in the action:** the Commission's proposal provides that cities in EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries and potential candidates shall only be allowed to participate in one competition during the period from 2020 to 2033. It stated that each EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate shall only be allowed to host the title once during the period from 2020 to 2033.

Members proposed that **Novi Sad (Serbia), Timișoara (Romania) and Elefsina (Greece)** shall be European Capitals of Culture in 2021.

**Network of European Capitals of Culture:** Members suggested that recognition shall be granted to the Network of European Capitals of Culture (NECC), comprising cities that have held the title at least once, in order to enhance the experience gained from the cultural capital scheme.

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt **delegated acts** concerning the regulation of the NECC. The power to adopt such acts shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period of time from the date of entry into force of the Decision.