Basic information

2019/2194(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage **Subject** 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance 4.45.06 Heritage and culture protection, movement of works of art	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture and Education	MELBĀRDE Dace (ECR)	11/12/2019
	Shadow rapporteur ŠOJDROVÁ Michaela (EPP) RUIZ DEVESA Domènec (S&D) FARRENG Laurence (Renew) YENBOU Salima (Greens/EFA) COLLARD Gilbert (ID) GEORGOULIS Alexis (GUE/NGL)	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/12/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/10/2020	Vote in committee		
04/11/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0210/2020	Summary
18/01/2021	Debate in Parliament		
20/01/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0008/2021	Summary
20/01/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/01/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/2194(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/02086

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE646.985	25/02/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE650.487	27/04/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0210/2020	04/11/2020	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0008/2021	20/01/2021	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2021)223	09/07/2021	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
MELBĀRDE Dace	Rapporteur	CULT	24/03/2020	Europeana
MELBĀRDE Dace	Rapporteur	CULT	19/02/2020	Europeana
MELBĀRDE Dace	Rapporteur	CULT	05/02/2020	Europa Nostra

Achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage

2019/2194(INI) - 04/11/2020 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted an own-initiative report by Dace MELBĀRDE (ECR, LV) on achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Recognising the value of cultural heritage

Members stressed that Europe's cultural heritage is a source of memory and knowledge that strengthens the common sense of belonging, promotes social cohesion and mutual understanding in society. Nearly a third of the sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List are located in the EU-27. More than 300 000 people work in the cultural heritage sector, while 7.8 million jobs are indirectly linked to it.

The report called on the Commission and the Member States to step up their action to protect, enhance and promote linguistic diversity in the digital age, to fully include the cultural heritage of minorities present in Europe in any reflection on European heritage, and to support traditional European and pan-European cultural events and cultural festivals in view of their role in raising awareness of Europe's cultural richness and diversity.

Education and skills

Members reiterated the importance of including various artistic art forms, such as music, film, theatre, literature, architecture and design, or in curricula support activities. In this respect, they considered that the House of European History should be provided with adequate funding to enable it to become a knowledge and collaboration hub for young researchers, teachers and students from all over the EU.

Stressing the growing role of digital education in the discovery of cultural heritage, the report called for the development of quality e-learning initiatives to make the discovery of cultural heritage more accessible and to strengthen heritage-related skills across Europe.

Concerned about the growing shortage of skilled craftsmen, restoration professionals and heritage experts, Members called on the Commission to include the preservation of key practices and knowledge in future cultural heritage preservation initiatives.

Digital cultural heritage

Members recognised the growing interest in digital cultural heritage, particularly during pandemics and associated lockdowns, as virtual communication tools are a source of solace and the only way for people, including those from disadvantaged and disabled backgrounds, to access culture.

The report underlined the need for a comprehensive European framework with adequate funding for the protection and promotion of digital heritage. It called for a comprehensive update of the Commission Recommendation of 27 October 2011 on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation, in order to reflect technological progress and the challenges and opportunities of the past decade.

Members called for the further development of the Europeana platform, which serves as a digital library, archive, museum and educational platform in Europe, including by allocating adequate funding. They also insisted that the material to be digitised should be selected in an unbiased way to ensure the credibility of digital archives and collections.

Economic potential and sustainability

Members recognised that sustainable cultural tourism has a significant potential to generate growth and jobs in the EU, as already four out of ten tourists choose their destination on the basis of its cultural offering. They stressed, however, that the promotion of cultural tourism needs to be done in an inclusive manner with regard to local communities and economies and to lifestyles and traditions, and needs to strike a balance between economic, social, cultural and environmental requirements.

The report recommended further efforts to encourage travel to less well-known and popular destinations and rural areas, as well as low-season travel.

Members expressed concern about the impact on cultural heritage of pollution, vandalism, theft, poorly managed tourism and uncontrolled development, as well as of global warming and climate change. Member States are called on to put strong mechanisms in place to prevent overexploitation of cultural heritage, including through poorly managed tourist flows.

Towards a strategic approach to cultural heritage

Members called on the Commission to adopt a more integrated approach towards cultural heritage, treating tangible, intangible, natural and digital heritage equally and considering them as interconnected and inseparable. They recommend strategic cooperation between the European Union and other international organisations, in particular UNESCO and the Council of Europe, in order to better coordinate efforts and common standards to preserve and promote cultural heritage and to exchange good practice.

Lastly, the report reiterated its call to double the budget of the Creative Europe programme and to triple the budget of the Erasmus+ programme in the next multi-annual financial framework. It urged the Commission and Member States to provide adequate and targeted financial support to alleviate the crisis in these sectors of culture and creativity, including by providing access to social benefits for people in atypical forms of employment.

Achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage

2019/2194(INI) - 20/01/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 644 votes to 18, with 27 abstentions, a resolution on achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Recognising the value of cultural heritage

According to Members, European cultural heritage is a source for remembrance, collective memory and knowledge which strengthens our common sense of belonging, thus promoting diversity, dialogue, cohesion, solidarity and mutual understanding.

Nearly a third of the sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List are located in the EU-27. More than 300 000 people work in the cultural heritage sector, while 7.8 million jobs are indirectly linked to it. During the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) in 2018 more than 23 000 events took place, reaching over 12.8 million people.

Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to step up their action to protect, enhance and promote linguistic diversity in the digital age, to fully include the cultural heritage of minorities present in Europe in any reflection on European heritage, and to support financially traditional European and pan-European cultural events and cultural festivals in view of their role in raising awareness of Europe's cultural richness and diversity.

Education and skills

Members reiterated the importance of including various artistic art forms, such as music, film, theatre, literature, architecture and design, or in curricula support activities.

They called on the Commission to integrate cultural heritage more fully into its strategy for a European education area, in order to help students acquire a strong sense of European citizenship.

Parliament recommended to:

- provide the House of European History with adequate funding to enable it to become a knowledge and collaboration hub for young researchers, teachers and students from all over the EU;

- develop of quality e-learning initiatives to make the discovery of cultural heritage more accessible and to strengthen heritage-related skills across Europe.

Concerned about the growing shortage of skilled craftsmen, restoration professionals and heritage experts, Members called on the Commission to include the preservation of key practices and knowledge in future cultural heritage preservation initiatives.

Digital cultural heritage

Parliament recognised the growing interest in digital cultural heritage, particularly during pandemics and associated lockdowns, as virtual communication tools are a source of solace and the only way for people, including those from disadvantaged and disabled backgrounds, to access culture. It is of the view that the material to be digitised must be selected in an unbiased way so as to ensure the credibility of digital archives and collections.

The resolution underlined the need for a comprehensive European framework with adequate funding for the protection and promotion of digital heritage. Members called for the further development of the Europeana platform, which serves as a digital library, archive, museum and educational platform in Europe, including by allocating adequate funding. They also called for more resources to be devoted to the promotion, development and advancement of online encyclopaedias.

Economic potential and sustainability

Members recognised that sustainable cultural tourism has a significant potential to generate growth and jobs in the EU, as already four out of ten tourists choose their destination based on its cultural offering. They stressed, however, that the promotion of cultural tourism needs to be done in an inclusive manner with regard to local communities and economies and to lifestyles and traditions, and needs to strike a balance between economic, social, cultural and environmental requirements.

The resolution recommended further efforts to encourage travel to less well-known and popular destinations and rural areas, as well as low-season travel.

Members expressed concern about the impact on cultural heritage of pollution, vandalism, theft, poorly managed tourism and uncontrolled development, as well as of global warming and climate change. Member States are called on to put strong mechanisms in place to prevent overexploitation of cultural heritage, including through poorly managed tourist flows.

Towards a strategic approach to cultural heritage

Members called on the Commission to adopt a more integrated approach towards cultural heritage, treating tangible, intangible, natural and digital heritage equally and considering them as interconnected and inseparable. They recommend strategic cooperation between the European Union and other international organisations, in particular UNESCO and the Council of Europe, in order to better coordinate efforts and common standards to preserve and promote cultural heritage and to exchange good practice.

Lastly, Parliament reiterated its call to double the budget of the Creative Europe programme and to triple the budget of the Erasmus+ programme in the next multi-annual financial framework. It urged the Commission and Member States to provide adequate and targeted financial support to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in the cultural and creative sectors, including by providing access to social benefits for people in atypical forms of employment.