

## **Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Culture Vilnius, 2 October 2013**

### **Statement issued by the Presidency**

THE PRESIDENCY,

RECALLING the conclusions of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on cultural governance (26-27 November 2012), culture and creative competences and their role in building intellectual capital in Europe (10 November 2011), the contribution of culture to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy (April 2011) and the role of culture in combating poverty and social exclusion (October 2010),

TAKING DUE NOTE of the expert discussions in the conference *Ready for tomorrow? Culture as an Agent for Social and Economic Transformation* held in Vilnius on 1-2 October 2013, which:

- took stock of the latest developments in conceptualizing the role of culture in addressing the problems of social and economic transformation of European societies,
- exchanged the experience of various member states in ensuring financing for culture during times of fiscal austerity,
- pointed out the importance of shaping national cultural policy through incentives to co-operate with other policy fields and highlighting the advantages of its horizontal planning,
- discussed the positive impact of EU structural assistance and other EU financial instruments on the cultural and creative sectors invoking the tangible results of such assistance produced by the 2007-2013 programming and implementation cycle,

TAKING DUE CONSIDERATION of the debate that was held by the Ministers of Culture, who met in Vilnius today, on 2 of October 2013,

HEREBY CONSIDERS

- that there is a strong case for the culture and creative sectors to be part of the solution to various issues of social and economic transformation faced today and in the future by the EU member states and for this role to be adequately reflected in the implementation of the “Europe 2020” strategy,
- that it is of paramount importance that during times of fiscal austerity investments into the culture and creative sectors, including from the EU programmes and structural funds, are such that they enable this role and a switch to culture-led development to be exercised,

TO THIS END, THE PRESIDENCY CALLS ON THE MEMBER STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- through the [OMC] framework already in place, to continue work in analyzing the cultural policies of the EU member states, taking into consideration their contribution to ongoing social and economic transformation (culture-led development),
- taking into account the position of culture in the light of the EU multiannual financial framework for the 2014-2020 period, to make efforts that the culture and creative sectors are addressed properly by further strategies and planning documents at all levels;
- to invite policy makers in other sectors to open up ways for a better and more effective application of cultural and creative sector inputs, taking into account national challenges and specificities;
- in order to complete the building of the ‘case for culture’, to encourage testing of the use of cultural inputs to facilitate socio-economic change, with a particular emphasis on the logic of intervention, the results achieved, prospects of sustainability and transfer to other cultural settings, eventually with a view to producing a guidance document in this regard,
- to advance the measures for evidence-based policy making as set out in the conclusions of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 26-27 November 2012.

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