



**Statement on the European Commission's Communication
"Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture"**

Brussels, 17 November 2017

Today, following the initiative of Council President Donald Tusk on the Leaders' Agenda, EU heads of state and government come together in Gothenburg, Sweden for a debate on culture and education.

The European Alliance for Culture and the Arts very much welcomes this meeting and the attention paid by heads of states and government to the importance of education and culture.

The Alliance has been calling on the European Institutions to clearly include the value of culture and the arts in the ongoing reflection and debate on the future of Europe, as both have an enormous potential for becoming a unifying and mobilising force in Europe. We therefore fully endorse Commission president Juncker's standpoint that "education and culture are the key to the future".

Taking into account the Commission's contribution to the Leaders' meeting in Gothenburg, which is the Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture, the Alliance calls on the Commission and the Council **to involve stakeholders from the cultural field and discuss policy suggestions and concrete initiatives put forward in the paper.**

Whereas, on the one hand, we recognise that the Commission highlights the role of culture in preserving and nurturing common values, promoting a shared European identity, better understanding across borders and active citizenship, on the other hand, this is not fully reflected in the proposals for concrete future initiatives in the field of culture which are to be discussed with European Member States.

The Alliance calls on the Council to take an ambitious approach in the area of culture ahead of the European Council on 14-15 December 2017.

Editor's note:

The Alliance conveys the voice of 35 European associations and networks and over 400 national organizations and individuals. We stand for recognising the intrinsic value of culture and the arts for the European society, as well as their role in strengthening the European project, which is facing major political challenges and needs to redefine its global positioning. We believe culture and the arts play an important role in the response to the social, economic and religious tensions existing inside societies, within the EU and outside the European borders. Therefore, we call on the European institutions and Member States to include culture and the arts in the strategic goals of the Union.

Why does culture matter? Find the response in concrete examples on our websites:

<https://allianceforculture.com/>





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