



Brussels, 12.03.2021

Subject: Urgent Call to the European Commission to Support the National Plans dedicating at least 2% of the RRF for the Cultural and Creative Sectors

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Vice-President Jourová,
Dear Vice-President Schinas,
Dear Commissioner Gabriel,
Dear Commissioner Breton,

Given that the pandemic has disproportionately and heavily impacted the Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS) with up to 98% decrease of the turnover for the performing arts and 95% for the book-sales; whereas less than 2% of the European cinemas remained open in between the lockdowns, most European museums remained closed and there was a 76% decline in music audiences¹,

Whereas even before the COVID-19 outbreak the CCS were a fragile and fragmented ecosystem characterized by irregular employment and precarious working conditions, difficult access to finance and imbalanced translation of market value into fair remuneration,

While the CCS are among the last sectors to recover due to both direct and indirect impact of the pandemic,

Given the new extra corona-costs that the CCS will have to bear in the post-COVID-19 era, due to the costs-related with corona-proof processes, uncertainty and insecurity of the audience for indoor public cultural activities,

Whereas the CCS have the highest numbers in youth employment, are highly gender balanced and represent a high percentage of our SMEs,

Whereas the CCS support social cohesion and resilience especially in times of crisis, as proven by the experience of millions of European citizens during the pandemic, who turned to culture to find the strength to bear the psychological burden of the confinement,

¹ European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, PE 652.242 – February 2021,
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/652242/IPOL_STU\(2021\)652242_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/652242/IPOL_STU(2021)652242_EN.pdf)



Whereas 598 MEPs have voted our Resolution on the Cultural Recovery of Europe, standing as the voice of the European people and asking among others to:

- *Dedicate at least 2% of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to the Cultural and Creative Sectors and industries.*
- *Reduce VAT rates for all cultural goods and services.*
- *Improve valuation of intangible assets.*
- *Introduce tax credits and tax motivation tools for cultural production.*
- *Improve the social protection systems and the working conditions for the workers in the CCS.*
- *Secure equal accessibility and inclusiveness for the distribution of cultural funding.*
- *Protect the future of the cultural ecosystem under the pressures brought by the green and the digital transition.*
- *Include the CCS in all financial supporting tools, such as the InvestEU and the NextGenerationEU.*

We urge you to:

- a) During your **evaluation** process **support within the national recovery and resilience plans measures that in total dedicate at least 2% to the CCS**. CCS that account for **3,7% of European employment and 4% of the European GDP**, and therefore should be proportionally funded through the RRF, and
- b) Provide us with information regarding **a concrete percentage** that the Commission would support for the demands of Culture in the process of the evaluation of the national recovery and resilience plans. Given that in the RRF there are concrete percentages for other sectors, such as the 20% for the digital transition and the 37% for the green transition, we believe there should as well be a specific percentage for the CCS, especially under the current threats crucially challenging our culture, our identity of today and heritage of tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

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