



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

Berlin, 24 November 2017

NEMO, the Network of European Museum Organisations, welcomes the European Commission's recent communication "Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture" that acknowledges the pivotal importance of culture for a healthy, active, cohesive society in Europe. As president Juncker recognizes, culture is a driver for social fairness, unity, and gives citizens a sense of belonging in a diverse Europe.

How can we bring to life the motto "Unity in diversity" and strengthen a common understanding of our values and community?

25 years after the EU first included culture in its policies with the Maastricht treaty, with the concerted efforts of the EU institutions and the member states, culture has - more than ever – been recognized as a valuable resource for the future of Europe, for its role supporting European identity, and even more, the EU itself as a project of peace, freedom and democracy.

Museums encourage dialogue, they stimulate us to think, learn and reflect, to celebrate differences and discover affinities. Museums contribute to developing cultural factors: they create memory and identity, and they foster creativity, diversity and knowledge. All these factors are crucial to the building of today's society. Museums have the potential to strengthen the social fabric of society and act as meeting places for different cultures. As learning institutions, museums support formal, informal and lifelong learning and contribute to all key learning competences set out by the EU.

Therefore NEMO invites the EU to an appropriate translation of this very potential of culture for society into apt initiatives on European level, investing into the inspirational, social, educational, connecting and cohesive power of cultural heritage and museums, to complement the already proposed measures to enhance heritage's economic potential for Europe.

NEMO looks forward to a continued and fruitful dialogue with the institutions at European level to discuss the next steps proposed within the 2025 perspective (including the upgrade of the European Agenda for Culture, the new EU funding programme to promote values and to support culture, and the EU Action Plan for Cultural Heritage) set out on the EC's fact sheet for the EU Leader's meeting in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017 to fully tap the potential of museums and culture for Europe and its citizens at large.