



Network of European  
Museum Organisations

The President of the European Council  
Donald Tusk  
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union  
Rue de la Loi 175  
1048 Bruxelles Brussel  
Berlin, 2 May 2019

## **BELONGING AND BECOMING**

Culture in the Future of Europe

Dear President Tusk,

Culture is the foundation of who we are as human beings and of our collective life. The future of the European Union as a shared project is difficult to imagine without the explicit recognition of its cultural dimension.

The Rome declaration of 2017 commits to build a Europe “where citizens have new opportunities for cultural and social development” and “a Union which preserves our cultural heritage and promotes cultural diversity”. This vision was confirmed at the Gothenburg Leaders' Summit in November 2017 and by the European Council in December 2017. Networks across all cultural sectors, cultural organisations, artists, activists, academics and policy-makers call **to make culture an integral part of the future of Europe in Sibiu.**

A better Europe needs more culture. Contemporary creation spearheads the reflection on social dynamics and future challenges, opening new avenues forward. The cultural sector has actively participated in the [reflection process on the future of Europe](#) leading to Sibiu. We affirm that **Culture and Democracy are not independent one from the other.** A European democratic project needs Culture to produce an open, inclusive, fair and diverse symbolic space. Counteracting the instrumentalisation of culture by Eurosceptic forces and reinforcing EU actions celebrating cultural diversity, in accordance with the core remit of the EU in the cultural field (Art. 167), should be seen as fundamental to build the future of Europe. Cultural actors are ready to be a companion and ally in this endeavour.

As a network for European museums and museum organisations, NEMO affirms that museums contribute to developing a sense of belonging by offering several cultural factors: they create memory and identity, they foster creativity, diversity and knowledge. Museums make European heritage tangible and help create a unified Europe. Museums' collections tell a rich variety of stories, interpreting past and present history. Museums encourage dialogue, stimulate thought, and invite reflection. In our museums we learn to celebrate differences and discover affinities.

In the name of the NEMO members, representing more than 30.000 voices of museum professionals and cultural actors across Europe, we call upon the President of the European Council to **include culture as an intrinsic part of Europe's future.**

Yours Sincerely,

Julia Pagel  
Secretary General  
Network of European Museum Organisations