
The *CULT* Gazette

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education

*Dear readers,
We're a bit late with our New Year's wishes but they are coming straight from the heart!
As promised, we are celebrating our first full year of the CULT Gazette with an evaluation form you may envisage returning to us.
We'll try to keep on improving our communication on parliamentary work. You just lean back and enjoy the ride.
Etienne Boumans, Head of Unit*

*Chers lecteurs et lectrices,
C'est avec un peu de retard mais avec tout notre cœur néanmoins que nous vous présentons aujourd'hui nos meilleurs vœux pour 2006. Nous célébrons en ce début d'année le premier anniversaire de la CULT Gazette, et nous avons le plaisir de vous soumettre comme prévu un questionnaire d'évaluation grâce auquel vous pourrez nous faire part de vos impressions. Nous continueront à vous tenir informés au mieux des divers travaux parlementaires en cours. Alors détendez-vous à présent et laissez vous tout simplement guider.
Etienne Boumans, Chef d'unité*

Meetings in Brussels

Monday & Tuesday, 23-24 janvier 2006

Exchange of view with the EU Presidency - Austria

□ Mrs Elisabeth GEHRER, Federal Minister of education, sciences and culture

An exchange of views took place with Mrs Gehrler, Austrian Federal Minister of education, sciences and culture. After underlining the importance of training to achieve the Lisbon objectives as well as the need to enhance inter-institutional dialogue, she described the key areas of work in education during the Austrian Presidency. Stating that “training gives you more”, she emphasized the importance of a close

cooperation with the European Parliament in this matter, highlighting quality as “the top objective for the Austrian presidency”. She underlined the need to improve key areas in order to achieve Lifelong learning objectives in particular school attendance, mathematics competences and literacy, which appears to be the ultimate access to culture. Another key objective of the Austrian presidency is to emphasize the importance of a “mobility of high quality” for research and competitiveness, which should be facilitated by the lifelong learning programme. The new EU qualification framework, which should provide a sufficient mobility to people, will be discussed in this respect at the May conference. Furthermore, the mutual recognition of qualification should be also facilitated and wide-spread. Mrs Gehrler then emphasized the necessity to ensure the development of the key competences seen as minimum set for each EU citizen, which would

include languages, sciences, basic mathematics and IT skills, as well as the need to have a strong budget in order to implement a sustainable training strategy and to ensure the quality of students' mobility, within the Charter for EU mobility remain essential, according to her. To conclude, the Minister stated that "education is more" being the foundation for a EU society based on high quality values.

□ **Mrs Ursula HAUBNER, Federal Minister of social security, generations and consumer protection**

Mrs Haubner described the priorities for the Austrian presidency in the area of youth, one of which is to guarantee employment to young people in the EU. She then highlighted the fields of competence under her responsibility during the presidency, such as education and training outside school, information for young people, implementation of youth programme, and described some major events to take place in the coming months, such as the informal youth ministers meeting in March. This event will fully involve young people, creating a genuine dialogue with them and improving young people's awareness of the EU. She explained that her programme intends to enhance youth policy, monitor measures for young people as well as supervise improvements and exchanges of good practices in this area. In this respect, the Youth pact remains the top priority. The Minister indicated that the Austrian presidency will also focus on combating poverty and exclusion of young people and expressed her concerns about demographic trends, which would seriously influence the future of youth and employment, and more particularly the allocation of resources. She underlined the need to recognise formal as well as non-formal learning, stating that "close cooperation with the Commission and other organizations such as the youth forum" remain essential.

□ **Mr. Franz MORAK, Secretary of State for art and media**

Mr Morak presented the priorities of the Austrian presidency in the field of culture and audiovisual policy and emphasized the need for an enhanced dialogue with the European Parliament. On MEDIA 2007, Mr. Morak hoped to reach a political agreement in March 2006, ensuring a smooth transition from MEDIA to MEDIA 2007, and highlighted the importance of cinema and

films, which are "fundamental ways to vehicle ideas and stimulate thoughts". "Architects of the future of the EU", films are, according to him, "vital elements of our society" and it is necessary to ensure the conditions to achieve their production as well as their promotion. He also stated that the EU was still lagging behind in the field of broadcasting. Training, development and marketing in this field are therefore important priorities. Creative industries are crucial contributors to economy and remain fundamental to the EU social model. Mr. Morak then underlined the efficiency of the review of the TVWF directive and expressed his positive view as to the involvement of non-linear services in the new directive and the regulation of products' placement. He also mentioned that the Austrian presidency is particularly concerned with the issue of the protection of minors. Concluding, he underlined his will to make "the EU 2008 multicultural dialogue a reality", being an excellent opportunity to foster mutual understanding and stated the EU should focus on innovation and creativity.

**Exchange of view with the
European Commission**

□ **Mrs Viviane REDING, Commissioner for Information society and Media**

Mme Reding est venue présenter à la commission de la culture et de l'éducation, les caractéristiques de la proposition législative pour la révision de la directive "Télévision sans frontières" adoptée le 13 décembre 2005 par la Commission. La commission CULT, responsable pour ce dossier, a nommé Mme Hieronymi (PPE-DE) en tant que Rapporteur. Cette proposition fournit un ensemble de règles de base pour tous les services audiovisuels et modernise les règles de la directive actuelle pour les services de télévision. La Commissaire a rappelé à cet effet que la nouvelle directive vise à traiter de façon «comparable mais pas identique» tous les services audiovisuels qu'ils soient linéaires ou non. Selon la Commissaire les principales caractéristiques de la nouvelle directive concernent notamment:

- l'introduction de l'obligation de base pour les services de médias audiovisuels incluant les services à la demande ainsi que des règles flexibles pour la publicité télévisée.
- La mise en place d'un cadre cohérent avec une meilleure réglementation comblant les lacunes de l'actuelle directive en ce qui

concerne les services non linéaires. Tous les services doivent se conformer à un même ensemble de règles dans le respect des principes de la protection des mineurs et de la dignité humaine.

- L'adoption de règles de publicité adaptées «aux réalités de notre monde» en les rendant à la fois plus flexibles ne subissant plus de restriction quantitative sauf toutefois en ce qui concerne les programmes pour les enfants, les long-métrages et les informations télévisées qui restent protégés par la règle d'une seule interruption par période de 35 minutes n'excédant pas les 12 minutes par heure.

La commissaire a également rappelé que la proposition fournit des règles claires quant au placement des produits afin d'assurer la transparence et de garantir la protection des consommateurs tout en donnant au créateur de films un revenu supplémentaire. Elle a conclu en rappelant l'introduction du droit de non discrimination aux extraits courts et l'obligation de recourir à des régulateurs audiovisuels indépendants à tous les pays dans la nouvelle directive. Suite à son intervention, un débat a eu lieu avec les membres de la commission au tour de plusieurs points, notamment la protection des mineurs face au placement des produits dans les émissions télévisées ainsi que la survie du dualisme du modèle audiovisuel européen basé sur le principe d'équilibre entre les services publique et privé.

Rapports

□ 'Citizens for Europe' programme (2007-2013)

Consideration of a draft report

The rapporteur on "Citizens for Europe" programme, Mr. Hannu Takkula (ALDE), presented his report, which mainly stresses the importance of such an initiative for the EU to reach out to its citizens and to increase their interest, awareness and ultimately support for the European integration process through a variety of actions. Mr Takkula expressed his regrets on the Council's agreement on the new Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 and demanded a higher budget for the programme. His report proposes to change the name of the programme into "Europe for citizens" in order to demonstrate that it is meant to offer support to citizens that are active in developing European projects. It also suggests opening the programme to organisations and

institutions active in non-formal education through which the "man in the street" could profit from courses and information events related to Europe, cultural diversity and common values. Also, the programme should become more open to local level organisations and should cover a whole range of civil society including for example local amateur sport clubs, the condition being that activities in order to be supported by this programme have a relation to the issue of European Union or common values. As a new area of activity the report introduces the support of projects related to the commemoration of the victims of mass extermination and mass deportations under the Nazi and the Stalinist regimes. Since this support was originally foreseen under the Culture programme, the inclusion of such new element would need to be accompanied by a higher overall budget for the programme.

Deadline for amendments: 1/2/2006 - 12h00

Adoption in plenary: March 2006

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□ European Capitals of Culture (2007-2019)

Discussion of a draft report

Im Rahmen der Januar-Ausschusssitzung hat ein Meinungsaustausch über die Änderungsanträge stattgefunden. Es handelte sich dabei um Änderungsanträge, die einerseits im Berichtsentwurf von Frau Prets (PES), Berichterstatterin, formuliert worden sind (1-26) und weiter diejenigen, die innerhalb der Frist für Einreichung der Änderungsanträge am 10/01/06 präsentiert worden sind (ÄÄ 27-51, eingereicht von folgenden Abgeordneten: Nikolaos Sifunakis, Christa Prets, Doris Pack, Helga Trüpel und Marielle De Sarnez, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Gyula Hegyi, Manuel Medina Ortega und Teresa Riera Madurell). Die Diskussion betraf, unter anderem, folgende Inhaltspunkte:

- Auswahlverfahren: Rolle der nationalen Ebene sowie der Auswahl- bzw. der Überprüfungs- und Beratungsjury,
- Beteiligung der zukünftige Beitrittsländer, der Drittländer und der Insellandschaften
- Auszeichnung: rechtzeitige Bereitstellung ausreichender Gemeinschaftsmittel für die Kulturhauptstädte; Bezeichnung
- Vernetzung der Kulturhauptstädte

Summary in EN

An exchange of view took place on the amendments tabled to the draft report by Mrs

Prets (PES) on the European Capitals of Culture (2007-2019) initiative. The discussion mainly focussed on issues like the selection procedure, participation of cities from accessing countries, third countries and island regions, the prize and the network of European Capitals of Culture.

Vote and adoption in CULT: 23 February 2006

Adoption in plenary: March 2006

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- ❑ **La transition de la radiodiffusion analogique à la radiodiffusion numérique: une opportunité pour la politique européenne de l'audiovisuel et la diversité culturelle**

Echange de vues

Un premier échange de vues sur le rapport d'initiative de M. Weber (PSE) concernant la transition à la radiodiffusion numérique s'est tenu pendant la réunion. Le rapporteur a présenté quelques idées qu'il a l'intention de développer dans son projet de rapport. Entre autres, il entend recommander aux États membres, que dans le cadre des mesures spécifiques à adopter au niveau national pour soutenir le passage de l'analogique au numérique, soient garantis le pluralisme de l'information ainsi qu'une offre de contenus de qualité sur les réseaux de télévision assurant la diffusion de l'information publique. Il a aussi rappelé l'importance que la transition vers le numérique soit induite par l'offre de services et ne consiste pas en un simple changement d'infrastructure, sans valeur ajoutée pour la population. Il a conclu en disant que c'était dans la complémentarité des supports de diffusion que les Européens devaient s'attacher à assurer la permanence de mission d'intérêt général du service public de la télévision.

Vote et adoption en CULT: 20 Mars 2006

Adoption in plenary: Avril 2006

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Opinions

- ❑ **Specific programme: Fundamental rights and citizenship (2007-2013)**

Vote and adoption of an opinion

During the meeting, the CULT Committee discussed the draft opinion by Mr Ignasi Guardans Cambó (ALDE), Rapporteur on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and Council

establishing for the period 2007-2013 the specific programme "Fundamental rights and citizenship", as a part of the general programme "Fundamental Rights and Justice". Some of the approved amendments focus on the need to encourage citizens to live together, in the view that it is the respect for fundamental rights what has to be promoted, rather than the rights themselves, other propose to make officially recognised religious communities eligible applicants to the programme. A debate took place on an amendment against the explicit mentioning of the Association of Council of States and Supreme Administrative Courts of the European Union as an organisation to receive grants within the programme; the amendment was rejected. The final opinion was approved by a large majority.

Responsible Committee: LIBE

Adoption in plenary: February 2006

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- ❑ **i2010 - A European Information Society for growth and employment**

Vote and adoption of an opinion

During its meeting, the CULT committee has voted and adopted the draft opinion by Mr. Chiesa (ALDE), Rapporteur on i2010 - A European Information Society for growth and employment. The final opinion, which was approved by a large majority, proposes to establish a Charter of eRights aimed at achieving good governance and full citizenship for all in the Information Society. In this respect all citizens, with a special attention to vulnerable groups, should be granted the rights to high quality, transparent, user-friendly, secure information and services as well as to participate to decision-making processes at all levels. The right to media education and literacy skills was also mentioned in this context. Amongst other things, the opinion calls to the recognition of the dual nature of the audio-visual media as both economic and cultural goods and therefore to the special role they play in promoting cultural diversity.

Adoption in plenary: February 2006

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- ❑ **Transatlantic economic relations**

Vote on and adoption of draft opinion

La commission CULT a adopté le projet d'avis de Mme Marie-Hélène Descamps (PPE-DE)

concernant le rapport d'initiative élaboré par la Commission du Commerce international, sur les relations économiques transatlantiques. L'avis souligne l'importance de la "clé culturelle" pour renforcer la compréhension mutuelle et les relations transatlantiques et invite les partenaires européens et américains à prendre en compte dans leurs relations économiques le rôle et les spécificités des secteurs de la culture et de l'éducation. L'avis propose la mise en place d'un dialogue transatlantique dans les domaines de la culture (notamment de l'audiovisuel) et de l'éducation pour favoriser des échanges réguliers de bonnes pratiques et d'expériences, en ce qui concerne plus particulièrement la lutte contre la piraterie et la contrefaçon, le tourisme culturel entre les deux continents, la connaissance du patrimoine et de la production cinématographique européenne et américaine, l'encouragement d'un rapport plus équilibré en matière de distribution cinématographique entre les deux continents qui devrait permettre aussi la prévention d'éventuelles pratiques de concurrence déloyale dans l'UE ainsi que l'élimination d'entraves à la distribution des produits audiovisuels européens aux États-Unis. Pour ce qui concerne l'éducation, l'avis préconise que la coopération cible le thème de la reconnaissance mutuelle des qualifications professionnelles, notamment dans les disciplines artistiques afin de faciliter la mobilité des "acteurs de la culture" et les échanges d'artistes, ainsi que la promotion de la recherche et les échanges de professeurs d'université, de chercheurs et d'étudiants. L'avis rappelle aussi que la spécificité du secteur audiovisuel nécessite que des échanges transatlantiques aient lieu dans le respect de la diversité culturelle et linguistique de l'Union européenne et incite les institutions européennes à sensibiliser le partenaire américain sur l'action de l'UE en faveur de la Convention de l'UNESCO sur la diversité culturelle.

Adoption in plenary: February 2006

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❑ **Décharge 2004 : budget général CE, section III, Commission**

Consideration and adoption of an opinion

The rapporteur Helga Trüpel (Greens) presented her opinion on the discharge for implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2004. The opinion mainly endorses the Court of Auditors report as for its section on internal policies and recommends the Commission

to continue its efforts to improve its internal control systems and capitalise on the procedural difficulties and bottlenecks encountered by beneficiaries of grants in the management of projects. The opinion was then voted with no amendments.

Adoption in plenary: tbc

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Other activities

❑ **Delegations**

A delegation of the Culture and education Committee to Salzburg in Austria is foreseen from next 20 to 22 February.

❑ **Hearings**

A hearing on "Professional football - market and society: commerce, competition and culture in the post-Bosman era" is due to take place next 3 May 2006.

Composition du Secrétariat

<http://www.ipolnet.ep.parl.union.eu/ipolnet/cms/pid/111>

Dates of next meeting:

- Strasbourg, Monday, 13 February 2006 (extraordinary meeting on Financial Perspectives)

If you wish to download the documents mentioned in the CULT Gazette, please click on:
http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/cult/cult_meetinglist.htm

Questions & suggestions:

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