Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
C series

C/2026/90054

30.6.2026

Corrigendum to Joint Declaration 'Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe'

(Official Journal of the European Union C, C/2026/3440, 25 June 2026)

The text of the Joint Declaration should read:

JOINT DECLARATION 'EUROPE FOR CULTURE - CULTURE FOR EUROPE'

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 November 2025, the Commission presented a draft 'Joint Declaration "Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe"' ('Joint Declaration') ([1]) to the Council and the European Parliament. The aim of this Declaration is to ensure strengthened political commitment in culture, within the respective roles and competencies of each institution.
2. On 1 April, the Permanent Representative Committee authorised the Presidency to begin interinstitutional discussions with the European Parliament and the Commission on the basis of the text as set out in doc 7663/26 REV 1, following its examination in the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) on 21 January 2026 and 17 February 2026.
3. Four interinstitutional meetings took place to discuss the text of the Declaration, three at technical level (22 April, 4 May, 6 May 2026) and one at political level (18 May 2026 in Strasbourg) where a provisional political agreement was found with the European Parliament and the Commission. The compromise found is set out in Annex.
4. The Joint Declaration should now be signed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

II. CONCLUSION

The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:

— confirm the agreement; and

— recommend to the Council to:

  — approve the text for a 'Joint Declaration "Europe for Culture - Culture for Europe"' as set out in Annex; and

  — authorise the Presidency to sign the Declaration on its behalf.

([1]) doc. 15410/25 ADD 2

Съставено в Брюксел на осемнадесети юни две хиляди двадесет и шеста година.

Hecho en Bruselas, el dieciocho de junio de dos mil veintiséis.

V Bruselu dne osmnáctého června dva tisíce dvacet šest.

Udfærdiget i Bruxelles den attende juni to tusind og seksogtyve.

Geschehen zu Brüssel am achtzehnten Juni zweitausendsechsundzwanzig.

Kahe tuhande kahekümne kuuenda aasta juunikuu kaheksateistkümnendal päeval Brüsselis.

Έγινε στις Βρυξέλλες, στις δεκαοκτώ Ιουνίου δύο χιλιάδες είκοσι έξι.

Done at Brussels on the eighteenth day of June in the year two thousand and twenty six.

Fait à Bruxelles, le dix-huit juin deux mille vingt-six.

Arna dhéanamh sa Bhruiséil, an t-ochtú lá déag de Mheitheamh sa bhliain dhá mhíle fiche a sé.

Sastavljeno u Bruxellesu osamnaestog lipnja godine dvije tisuće dvadeset šeste.

Fatto a Bruxelles, addì diciotto giugno duemilaventisei.

Briselē, divi tūkstoši divdesmit sestā gada astoņpadsmitajā jūnijā.

Priimta du tūkstančiai dvidešimt šeštų metų birželio aštuonioliktą dieną Briuselyje.

Kelt Brüsszelben, a kétezerhuszonhatodik év június havának tizennyolcadik napján.

Magħmul fi Brussell, fit-tmintax-il jum ta' Ġunju fis-sena elfejn u sitta u għoxrin.

Gedaan te Brussel, achttien juni tweeduizend zesentwintig.

Sporządzono w Brukseli dnia osiemnastego czerwca roku dwa tysiące dwudziestego szóstego.

Feito em Bruxelas, em dezoito de junho de dois mil e vinte e seis.

Întocmit la Bruxelles la optsprezece iunie două mii douăzeci și șase.

V Bruseli osemnásteho júna dvetisícdvadsaťšesť.

V Bruslju, osemnajstega junija dva tisoč šestindvajset.

Tehty Brysselissä kahdeksantenatoista päivänä kesäkuuta vuonna kaksituhattakaksikymmentäkuusi.

Som skedde i Bryssel den artonde juni år tjugohundratjugosex.

За Европейския парламент
Por el Parlamento Europeo
Za Evropský parlament
For Europa-Parlamentet
Für das Europäische Parlament
Euroopa Parlamendi nimel
Για το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο
For the European Parliament
Par le Parlement européen
Thar ceann Pharlaimint na hEorpa
Za Europski parlament
Per il Parlamento europeo
Eiropas Parlamenta vārdā –
Europos Parlamento vardu
az Európai Parlament részéről
Ghall-Parlament Ewropew
Voor het Europees Parlement
W imieniu Parlamentu Europejskiego
Pelo Parlamento Europeu
Pentru Parlamentul European
Za Európsky parlament
Za Evropski parlament
Euroopan parlamentin puolesta
För Europaparlamentet

Председател
La Presidenta
Předsedkyně
Formand
Die Präsidentin
President
Η Πρόεδρος
The President
La présidente
An tUachtarán
Predsjednica
La Presidente
Priekšsēdētāja
Pirmininkė
Az elnök
Il-President
De Voorzitter
Przewodnicząca
A Presidente
Președinta
Predsedníčka
Predsednica
Puhemies
Ordförande

Roberta METSOLA

За Съвета на Европейския съюз
Por el Consejo de la Unión Europea
Za Radu Evropské unie
For Rådet for Den Europæiske Union
Für den Rat der Europäischen Union
Euroopa Liidu Nõukogu nimel
Για το Συμβούλιο της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης
For the Council of the European Union
Pour le Conseil de l'Union européenne
Thar ceann na Comhairle
Za Vijeće Europske unije
Per il Consiglio dell'Unione europea
Eiropas Savienības Padomes vārdā
Europos Sąjungos Tarybos vardu
Az Európai Unió Tanácsa részéről
Ghall-Kunsill ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea
Voor de Raad van de Europese Unie
W imieniu Rady Unii Europejskiej
Pelo Conselho da União Europeia
Pentru Consiliul Uniunii Europene
Za Radu Európskej únie
Za Svet Evropske unije
Euroopan unionin neuvoston puolesta
För Europeiska unionens råd

Председател
El Presidente
Předseda
Formand
Der Präsident
Eesistuja
Ο Πρόεδρος
The President
Le Président
An tUachtarán
Predsjednik
Il Presidente
Priekšsēdētājs
Pirmininkas
Az elnök
Il-President
De Voorzitter
Przewodniczący
O Presidente
Președintele
Predseda
Predsednik
Puheenjohtaja
Ordförande

Nikos CHRISTODOULIDES

За Европейската комисия
Por la Comisión Europea
Za Evropskou komisi
For Europa-Kommissionen
Für die Europäische Kommission
Euroopa Komisjoni nimel
Για την Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή
For the European Commission
Par la Commission européenne
Thar ceann an Choimisiúin
Za Europsku komisiju
Per la Commissione europea
Eiropas Komisijas vārdā –
Europos Komisijos vardu
az Európai Bizottság részéről
Ghall-Kummissjoni Ewropea
Voor de Europese Commissie
W imieniu Komisji Europejskiej
Pela Comissão Europeia
Pentru Comisia Europeană
Za Európsku komisiu
Za Evropsko komisijo
Euroopan komission puolesta
För Europeiska kommissionen

Председател
La Presidenta
Předsedkyně
Formand
Die Präsidentin
President
Η Πρόεδρος
The President
La présidente
An tUachtarán
Predsjednica
La Presidente
Priekšsēdētāja
Pirmininkė
Az elnök
Il-President
De Voorzitter
Przewodnicząca
A Presidente
Președinta
Predsedníčka
Predsednica
Puheenjohtaja
Ordförande

Ursula von der LEYEN

ANNEX

Draft Joint Declaration

'Europe for Culture - Culture for Europe'

Preamble

Whereas:

a) Europe is a continent of immeasurable art, culture, creativity and rich cultural heritage and history. Europe's cultural diversity and vibrancy, fuelled by the excellence of its artists and cultural and creative professionals, are fundamental to EU values and identity, fostering a European sense of belonging and shared European identity, and strengthening democracy.

b) The cultural and creative sectors and industries are dynamic economic sectors. They encompass all forms of expression and manifestation related to arts, culture and cultural heritage, as well as audiovisual and media. They represent a strategic resource for Europe's competitiveness and cohesion, generating economic growth and positive spillovers across sectors and territories, creating qualified jobs, and fuelling the EU's creative and innovative edge.

c) Culture and cultural heritage underpin the core values the EU is founded on – respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights (Article 2 TEU) – and embody the motto 'United in diversity'. The EU's overarching objective in the field of culture is to respect and promote its rich cultural and linguistic diversity; to ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced; and to encourage cooperation between Member States (Article 3 TEU, Article 167 TFEU), thus supporting the actions of the Member States in the field of culture.

d) Culture and cultural heritage create a space to imagine desirable futures and are vital to the European way of life. They provide a platform for public dialogue, unite communities, enrich lives, bring cohesion to our societies and are an important vector for the EU's external action. The EU can leverage its cultural assets to build resilience, promote peace and democracy, and inspire innovative solutions that contribute to sustainable development.

e) Culture is a strategic resource for the EU to confront today's pressing realities, such as geopolitical and geoeconomic tensions, global warming and environmental degradation, social and economic inequalities, rapid technological changes, demographic shifts, and a mental health crisis. At the same time, the cultural and creative sectors and industries, including audiovisual industries, face their own challenges, necessitating targeted support and decisive action.

f) This declaration articulates a long-term strategic vision to place culture at the heart of Europe's identity, also building on the achievements of the EU Work Plans for Culture. It emphasises the importance of culture for individuals, communities and the EU, and strengthens cultural rights and principles. It recognises that cultural activities, goods and services convey identities, values and meanings. It also reaffirms that the Union should take cultural aspects into account in all its actions, in particular in order to respect and promote the diversity of its cultures.

g) Recognising the EU's supporting role in the field of culture, this declaration affirms shared political commitments and responsibilities of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission – within their respective competencies and in full compliance with EU law – inspired by the key directions set out in the Commission's 2025 Culture Compass for Europe.

Joint Declaration on Europe for Culture - Culture for Europe

We aim at promoting and positioning culture both as a resource for and a beneficiary of European unity, democracy, diversity, excellence and competitiveness. And, thus, we commit to:

— Strengthening the European Union's role as a global cultural powerhouse and vibrant hub of creativity, where everyone can freely create, access and engage with culture; a role which upholds cultural rights, empowers citizens and creative professionals.

— Ensuring that culture remains a driving force to the socio-economic and territorial fabric of Europe recognising culture's intrinsic, societal, civic and economic value, and its transformative potential.

— Promoting measures to empower, thrive, innovate and compete globally.

— Acknowledging the intrinsic value of culture and its role as a public good, contributing to the EU's resilience and sustainable growth.

Aligned with these commitments and the four key directions of the Culture Compass for Europe, we declare our embrace of the following principles for cultural policies in Europe.

1. **Freedom of artistic expression** and freedom to create are the foundations of culture, and play an indispensable role in fostering democratic societies and in upholding European values.

We commit to:

— Safeguarding the freedom of artistic expression and respect of EU values as a cornerstone of democracy and fundamental rights within the European Union.

— Protecting artists and cultural professionals from censorship, intimidation, and undue interference.

— Shielding the independence of cultural institutions.

2. **Cultural and linguistic diversity** are fundamental values on which the EU is founded. We commit to:

— Supporting, celebrating and preserving the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of the European Union and its cultural sovereignty.

— Promoting the rich diversity of cultural works and content created in Europe, notably online, fostering their visibility and discoverability, in all official languages of the EU in full respect of linguistic diversity.

3. **Access to culture** is a fundamental pillar of democratic and inclusive societies. We commit to:

— Enhancing inclusive access to, participation in, enjoyment and benefit of culture and cultural heritage for everyone, especially younger generations.

— Paying particular attention to cultural rights, encompassing access to culture, of vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities, marginalised or disadvantaged persons, and people living in rural, remote or underserved areas – including areas at risk of depopulation or facing socio-economic challenges.

— Enhancing and improving cultural infrastructure across Europe, paying attention to addressing socio-economic and territorial disparities and fostering cultural participation at the local level.

4. Everyone has the right to **fair, just, healthy and safe working conditions**, including artists and cultural professionals who are at the heart of our cultural and creative sectors and industries. Fair remuneration and adequate working conditions are fundamental to artistic freedom and cultural diversity. We commit to:

— Promoting, while respecting the role and autonomy of the social partners, fair remuneration, adequate social protection, access to skills development and mobility for all artists and cultural professionals, as well as supporting their collective bargaining rights and fostering their occupational health and safety, including their mental health.

— Promoting gender equality in culture and cultural heritage, and protecting the rights of artists and cultural professionals with disabilities.

5. **Young people** are crucial in shaping Europe's future and its diverse cultural landscape. We commit to:

— Promoting young people's representation and participation in shaping cultural policies to amplify their voices in decision-making processes that concern them.

— Supporting young and emerging artists, including marginalised or disadvantaged persons, recognising their contribution to Europe's culture and heritage.

— Encouraging intergenerational cooperation and exchange between artists to ensure transfer of skills, knowledge and traditions.

6. The synergy between **culture, arts, and education** is fundamental to the development and prosperity of future societies. We commit to:

— Fostering arts education for everyone in formal, non-formal and informal learning, as part of lifelong learning, thereby contributing to the EU's diversity and resilience.

— Supporting the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach and interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary synergies between culture, the arts, science, and technology.

7. Cultural engagement has proven positive impacts on the **health and well-being** of individuals and communities. We commit to:

— Promoting – through our policies – the positive effects of culture and cultural participation on health and well-being.

— Sharing best practices and innovative approaches across sectors.

8. The ethical, sustainable and responsible use, development and governance of **artificial intelligence** (AI) systems should foster human creativity through a fair human-centric and rights-based approach. It should: respect cultural rights, accessibility, inclusivity and cultural diversity; promote and contribute to the discoverability and visibility of European, national and local content; foster competitiveness; counter digital divides; and foster digital inclusion. We commit to:

— Promoting human creation and European cultural and linguistic digital sovereignty, and addressing ethical risks of biases and cultural homogenisation.

— Protecting intellectual property rights, by addressing the impacts of AI on creators and their fair remuneration, while embracing innovation.

— Fostering transparency of content generated by AI in order to facilitate the distinction between human and AI-generated content.

— Monitoring and mitigating the impact of AI on jobs, as well as supporting the cultural and creative sectors and industries in adapting to technological change and acquiring digital skills.

— Fostering the use of AI as a tool to support cultural and creative professionals, and enabling the cultural and creative sectors and industries to harness the opportunities offered by these technologies, thus strenghtening Europe's innovation capacity and global technological competitiveness.

9. **Cultural heritage** connects our past with our future. It is a symbol of unity in diversity and a cornerstone of our identity, democracy, and resilience. We commit to:

— Protecting, safeguarding and promoting Europe's rich natural and cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible – while harnessing digital technologies to foster its preservation, access and innovation.

— Improving awareness, research and capacity building, and the use and interoperability of databases and digital technologies to face the threat of cultural goods trafficking and other related crimes, while fostering cooperation among relevant professionals, such as heritage, law enforcement or customs professionals, including in the international context.

— Fostering intergenerational exchange to ensure the transmission of cultural heritage and knowledge from older to younger generations.

10. Culture and cultural heritage foster **regional and territorial development, resilience, social cohesion and convergence** between Europe's regions. They also need to be protected in times of crises, including from risks such as the effects of climate change. We commit to:

— Untapping the potential of culture and cultural heritage, in synergy with other areas, in boosting attractiveness of all territories and addressing territorial challenges, including countering demographic decline, especially in peripheral, rural, remote and underserved areas, and EU outermost regions.

— Advancing sustainable cultural tourism, respectful of cultural heritage, landscapes and community practices, and contributing to regional and local development.

— Exploring different ways of integrating culture and cultural heritage into cooperation on crisis preparedness, security and crisis preparedness planning, crisis and risk management, post-crisis reconstruction, recovery and peace-building processes.

11. Culture, including cultural heritage, is crucial in the **shift towards environmental sustainability** as it shapes values, behaviours and practices that underpin environmentally responsible development. We commit to:

— Emphasising the importance of culture in the policy response to ecological challenges, by promoting architecture, design, heritage safeguarding, landscape management that pursues quality, innovation, inclusion and excellence, as well as by encouraging the uptake of practical greening tools and skills, and enabling cultural and heritage agents to lead and change narratives in co-creation with communities.

12. Pursuing the ambitions of this declaration and fully leveraging culture's transversal impacts means promoting culture in the EU's internal and external policies, addressing the needs of and investing in the cultural and creative sectors and industries, and monitoring progress. We commit to:

— Supporting the sustainability of the cultural and creative sectors and industries and safeguarding cultural heritage, including by encouraging different forms of funding and considering innovative and alternative modes of funding at all levels of governance.

— Ensuring effective cultural mainstreaming within relevant EU strategies, policies and actions, and the corresponding funding tools, from early design phase to implementation.

— Enhancing the cross-border circulation of European cultural works in all their diversity.

— Maintaining close and regular dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

— Promoting this declaration – within the respective roles and powers of the signatories – in the EU's relations with partner countries and relevant international organisations, and fostering collaboration within multilateral fora.

— Advancing initiatives aimed at improving the availability of sound and comparable data on culture to support the development of evidence-based cultural policies.

— Reviewing progress in the areas covered in this declaration.