

Joint Declaration by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission

Europe for Culture, Culture for Europe

A joint commitment for culture in the European Union

WHAT IS THE DECLARATION ABOUT?

For the first time in EU history, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission have signed a Joint Declaration setting out their shared political commitment to protecting, promoting and supporting culture in Europe.

The Declaration builds on the European Commission's 2025 *Culture Compass for Europe* and underscores the importance of culture for people, communities and the EU.

THE GOAL

To promote and position culture as a driver of European unity, democracy, diversity, excellence and competitiveness.

To ensure that people and communities across Europe can benefit from culture.

KEY COMMITMENTS



Protect cultural rights

Strengthen the EU as a global cultural powerhouse, where everyone can freely create, access and exercise their cultural rights.



Unlock culture's transformative power

Ensure culture is a driving force to the socio-economic and territorial fabric of Europe and recognise culture's transformative potential.



Recognise culture as a public good

Acknowledge that culture holds intrinsic value and contributes to resilience, social cohesion and sustainable growth.



Empower European culture to thrive

Support the sectors to innovate, grow and reach audiences well beyond Europe's borders.

12 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CULTURAL POLICIES IN EUROPE



1. Freedom of artistic expression and the right to create
2. Cultural and linguistic diversity
3. Access to culture for all
4. Fair, just, healthy and safe working conditions for artists and cultural professionals
5. Youth representation and participation in cultural life
6. Synergies between culture, arts, and education
7. Culture's contribution to health and well-being
8. Ethical and responsible use, development and governance of AI
9. Protection, safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage
10. Culture's role in fostering regional & territorial development, resilience and social cohesion
11. Culture's contribution to environmental sustainability
12. Integration of culture and cultural heritage in EU's internal and external policies, investing in culture and monitoring progress

HOW THE EU INSTITUTIONS WILL DELIVER



Support the sustainability of the cultural and creative sectors and industries and promote innovative, diversified financing models at every level of governance.



Mainstream culture within relevant EU strategies, policies, actions and funding instruments.



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



Maintain close dialogue with relevant stakeholders.



Promote this declaration in the EU's relations with international organisations and partner countries and foster collaboration within multilateral fora.



Improve the data available on culture, so policies are built on evidence.



Review progress over time.