

MEMO TO ALL MEMBERS

On 16 December, the European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture convened in Brussels the 1st meeting of a joint meeting of Chairpersons of the Culture Open Method of Coordination Working Groups and the Chairpersons and Secretariats of the 3 Culture Platforms.

Mercedes Giovinazzo and Kathrin Deventer attended the meeting on behalf of the “Access to Culture” Platform, as Chair and Secretary, respectively, of the Platform.

Herewith are the main conclusions of the meeting:

1. Work in progress of the other two Platforms

“Cultural and Creative Industries” Platform

- a. The Platform works with 5 sub-groups on: 1) the regulatory environment; 2) the role of SMEs in the creative economy; 3 and 4) circulation of works and artists, exchange and export in a globalized world; and 5) the interface between artists and the cultural industries.
- b. Each working group has a chair; the chairs have a seat in the board.
- c. The overall aim of the Platform is to produce a single final document, with WG reports in annex.
- d. Calendar: the WG reports have been drafted and a first plenary meeting of the Platform for discussion and exchange has taken place at the beginning of December 2008. Next steps up to June include the finalization of the WG’s reports and the drafting of the final document, to be presented at the European Cultural Forum that the EC will convene in September 2009.

“Intercultural Europe” Platform

- a. The Platform, in its work over the last 2 years, has already produced a paper with recommendations, endorsed by the cultural sector through a participatory process.
- b. Next steps include a fine-tuning exercise but also a communication and implementation exercise of the first set of recommendations.
- c. All the documents produced by the Platform are online (see www.intercultural-europe.org).

2. Common fields of concern

The Platforms conveyed to the EC the following common issues for consideration:

- a. **Resources:** the issue of resources to be allocated by the Platforms was raised, especially regarding the need for member organizations to pool internal extra resources to carry out the work.
- b. **Objectives and outcomes:** the Platforms have to be in the position to convey a clear message to both members and the sector as to the expected outcomes, in the short term. On this issue, the Commission underlined that among the major outcomes of the Platforms are the possibility for the sector to increase both its influence on policy making, especially through collaboration with the Open Method of Coordination Working Groups (composed of Member States), and its contribution to the definition up of the new Culture Programme as well as to the streamlining of the cultural element in EC general policy.
- c. **Internal communication:** it was assessed that the EC tool, Circa, does not respond to the needs of the Platforms. Nevertheless, the Commission suggested that it be further assessed as a potential ‘user-friendly’ and ‘open’ method of work.
- d. **External communication:** the need to identify common critical issues among the Platforms was stressed; this in a logic of a more transparent and direct communication with the

- sector, especially as regards the working calendar and its key moments, e.g. European Cultural Forum in September 2009
- e. **European Cultural Forum, September 2009:**

3. Common action and calendar

The need to exchange, via the Platform Boards and Secretariats, ad hoc information, the working calendar as well as the interim results (working group reports, then platform papers) was stressed by all present. In this perspective a further structural interaction via online communication tools will be assessed.

As regards the calendar, information was given by the Commission on the following events:

*** March 2009, Annual plenary meeting of the Platforms**

Facilitated and co-sponsored by the Commission the dates are still to be confirmed.

*** 26-27 March 2009, Prague, Creative Europe Forum**

An event intended to give visibility to the issue of the creative industries.

*** Spring 2009, dates to be confirmed, 2nd joint meeting of the Chairpersons of the Culture Open Method of Coordination Working Groups and the Chairpersons and Secretariats of the 3 Culture Platforms.**

*** 28-30 September, 2009, Brussels, European Cultural Forum**

Format: Plenary and working groups

The Commission intends to convene the Platforms (working group chairs, presenters, preliminary communication) to the Forum, understood as an event to discuss the issues related to the European Agenda for Culture, and give them major political visibility. Input from the Platforms is expected on proposals of themes for debate as well as on the identification of potential “Ambassadors for the European Agenda for Culture”, i.e. high-level representatives from the cultural field (e.g. artists) or ‘chief executives from the industries.

4. OMC Working Groups

The Chairs of the Open Method Coordination Working Groups presented the situation of each of the Working Groups:

1. Cultural and creative industries

25 Member States participate in the WG which has been divided in 4 sub-working groups on: 1) Contest, 2) Use issues, 3) Methods, 4) Content. The wish to cooperate with the non-governmental sector was stressed.

2. Mobility of artists and other professionals

22 Members states participate in 4 sub-working groups on: 1) Intermediate agents (producers, impresarios, layers); 2) Support schemes at national and European level; 3) Obstacles to mobility (administrative, legislative...); 4) Cultural mobility statistics. A plenary meeting will be held in February 2009 to assess work in progress as well as to identify the first political recommendations to be submitted at a second plenary in May, following which a final document will be prepared for the September 2009 Forum.

3. Stronger synergies between culture and education

The group has 4 sub-groups on: 1) the transversality of arts education (arts education in, formal and non-formal education, training of artists as teachers, relationship between artists and institutions, etc.); 2) content (arts education as cross-disciplinary, new cultural practices of young people, education to heritage in a multicultural society, the role of cultural industries in the cultural and artistic education (the role of internet, music industry etc); 3) training, including trans-disciplinary and non-formal education; 4) evaluation (impact studies, desk studies on impact of artistic education on children, how to evaluate).The WG first met on

September 22nd. A draft recommendation paper will be presented at the mid-term Forum Brussels.

4. Mobility of collections

25 Member states participate in the Working Group with the overall aim to raise standards of collections, benchmarking best practices, etc. The WG is divided in 5 sub-working groups: 1) government indemnity; 2) immunity from seizure; 3) exchanges between museums and cultural professionals including fundraising; 4) identification of new trends, including long term loans; 5) illicit trafficking. The working group is open to interact with the Platforms.
