

Resisting Liberalism

EU Cultural Diplomacy as Defence

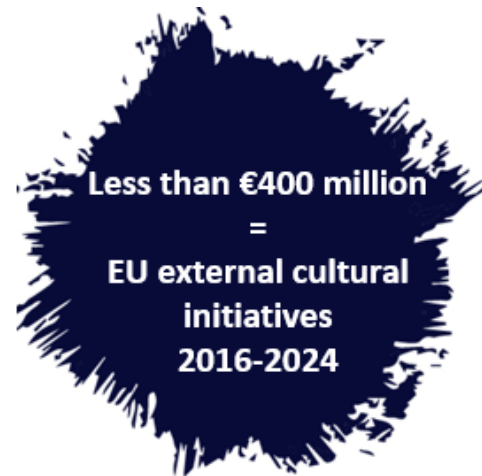


**Exchange of views
European Parliament – CULT Committee
13 February 2024**

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1. Global affairs & culture : EU does too little too late

- Risk that the EU image is deteriorating in Global South
- Culture is at the core of global affairs



- However, EU dramatically under-investing
- **Money doesn't follow because there is no strong strategic steering**

2. EU treaty and policy frameworks need a refresh



New blocks
logics &
alliances



CLIMATE
CRISIS



Questioning of the
West
Decolonising
critique

- Need for a refresh to reflect latest global trends:
- the climate crisis against which global alliances are currently melting down
- increased tensions, conflicts,
- the end of "happy globalisation" and of the illusions of "Global Cultural Citizenship"

3. Resisting Liberalism: culture as defence of freedoms



Contested and threatening world: EU advised to shape its global cultural action around the concept of "**Resisting Liberalism**"

- working actively with **cultural and creative professionals in all policy fields**
- in the **defence of fundamental freedoms** (i.e. political liberalism)
- worldwide (including ecological ones, **ecological freedoms**)
- **against** new forms of extremism, violence and aggression (resistance, beyond mere resilience).

4. Make EU a (diverse) cultural block: legal paradigm shift

outdated
legal state
of play

- Eventual EU treaty change with enlargement: prepare for the opportunity now
- The EU as cultural block: a policy reality
- Need more **EU competences in the field of culture and external cultural affairs** (whilst fulling encouraging cultural diversity)
Need for introduction of **QMV procedures for EU external cultural action.**
All Member States will benefit individually
- This will allow the EU to act as a cultural block in global affairs.

EU as cultural block
=
a policy reality

France Germany
Italy Netherlands
should push for
more EU
competences

5. Mouth & money: a budget line for culture in Global Europe

- Current arrangements under **NDICI** have not **permitted significant increase in funding**
- Key administrative **decision-makers still ignore, avoid or discard the role of culture**
- In previous statements I already suggested a budget of **€1 Billion for the current Multiannual Financial Framework.**
- Current **budget for culture is likely less than 0,1% of €300Bn Global Gateway** budget
- Need for political decision on a **dedicated and commensurate budget line in Global Europe funding**



6. Efficiency & cultural rearmament: European Culture Facility



REFRESHED
AGENDA,
beyond the
cultural heritage
lowest common
denominator

- **Enhance EU institutions' efficiency** with the creation of a European Culture Facility
- **an EU agency for external cultural action, with a certain degree of autonomy** from Commission's external relations DGs,
- ability to develop and **support virtuous policy mixes and initiatives around culture** and SDGs, culture an innovation, technology, jobs, culture and climate, culture and defence, youth, education, etc.



EIT KiC
*Innovation &
technology*
*External
dimensions?*

7. Resisting Liberalism and building political leadership

- Political leadership in Member States and European Parliament: an intergroup + support to CSOs
- **Parliament's question to the next candidate for the European Commission's Presidency on EU external action**
- Mandate in each Commissioner's mission letter
- Without such bold transformations, the EU unable to **resist illiberal threats** worldwide (and within the EU).





**Thanks for your
attention 😊**