

GIVING EUROPE A HOME

A simulation game on European cultural policy



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PRE- FACE

PREFACE TO THE SIMULATION GAME

The organization of the European Union and its institutions are complex and not always easy to understand. Therefore, it is essential to explain to the citizens and in particular to the next generations how the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers work together and make decisions.

The tension between European integration and national sovereignty, the difficult conveyance of the great achievements and successes of this European Union, the need for its further development, and the awareness of the privileges of its citizens are to be made perceptible, and the respective procedures are to be made comprehensible.

In May 2016, the European External Action Service submitted a draft concept for the role of culture in the external relations of the EU. In this thematic context, we have developed a simulation game and chosen the concept of a *house of European cultures* as topic. The purpose of the simulation game is to understand the interplay between the European institutions, and the importance and work of countries and bodies in these institutions. Another goal is to reflect and see how cultural policy is implemented, and what kind of potential lies in the cultural diversity of the Union. We want to arouse interest in all cultures of Europe.

A house of European cultures refers to the national, regional, and also the immigrant cultures. They all together constitute the richness of a Europe of cultures.

The simulation game illustrates how important it is to become aware of your own conditions of action, to put yourself in the thinking and feeling of others, to compromise, to shape open processes of discourse, and to constructively participate in solutions. We are sure that we have to convince of the EU to a much higher degree, and this is only possible by experiencing the idea and a functioning coexistence in this EU.

We wish all those who organize the simulation game and, above all, all who participate in it, a lot of fun.

The simulation game can be used anywhere, anytime and in any language without copyright charges, because it is our goal that as many people as possible participate in the idea of Europe and get enthusiastic about it.

With best regards

Ronald Grätz, ifa – Secretary General

INTRO- DUCTION

Why a simulation game?

Simulation games have become increasingly popular in various educational fields. In particular, young people in learning processes like to participate in the interactive and playful method of acquiring knowledge. In the context of simulation games, complex negotiation and decision-making processes are simulated close to reality. This learning method is suitable for practically all age and occupational groups. The participants in simulation games assume the role of the persons involved and the representatives of interest groups for the entire duration of the game. A fictional but realistic starting point – the so-called scenario – is the background.

In this way, participants learn and experience the respective decision-making processes. Real processes become more transparent and thus more accessible. In contrast to traditional role-playing games, participants act primarily in groups. You must work yourself into the respective personal background of the persons involved, make motions, represent groups and joint initiatives, discuss and design collaborations. Simulation games live by the willingness of the players to engage in open learning processes. The outcome of a simulation game is determined by the players themselves. With simulation games, the way is the goal quite literally.

Pedagogical implications

Participation in simulation games affects the players.

- Such games provide the players with a tangible access to topics that often appear dry and too complex, which allows for a learning process.
- The conversation skills and self-confidence of participants is strengthened; they learn to deal with complex issues and to adequately represent their own interests.
- A simulation game trains social and communicative skills.
- The creativity of the players is encouraged who experience a sense of achievement.
- Both different working techniques (e.g. text work, etc.) and social techniques (e.g. cooperation skills, capacity to compromise and for teamwork) are taught.
- Simulation games promote the understanding of complex negotiations and decision-making processes.
- Players experience possibilities and limits of interest enforcement against the background of a necessary Community regulation.

The learning process within a simulation game is very intense for the players, although the criterion of playing is equally prominent. Factual connections must be taught, recognized and reflected on in the shortest possible time. Decisions are made under time pressure, and the accumulated knowledge is immediately implemented.

INTRO- DUCTION

Notes on role texts

The “Scenario”, “Group profiles” and “Role profiles” texts contain outline data from publicly available sources. Statistical data come from Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union (www.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu) and the Federal Statistical Office (www.destatis.de). Information related to countries, parties and the Commission partly originates from self-presentations on the respective Internet pages, as well as public sources, such as the Federal Agency for Civic Education (www.bpb.de), the Federal Government’s page on EU Member States (www.bundesregierung.de) and other pages on Europe and EU Member States. The views, goals, strategies and other content-related aspects of the texts expressed herein do not represent the statements of the respective persons or groups of persons involved in their entire complexity, but are formulated according to the guidelines outlined in the Beutelsbach Consensus (www.bpb.de/die-bpb/51310/beutelsbacher-konsens) for didactic reasons. A closeness to the actual positions and lines of conflict is nevertheless intended for the same didactic and dramaturgical reasons.

EU cultural policy

Cultural policy is an area in the European Union that has so far largely remained in the hands of the Member States. This means that the respective competences had been transferred to the European only to a small extent, if at all. It was only with the Treaty on European Union which had entered into force on November 1, 1993 that the first legal basis for politico-cultural involvement at European level was created. The corresponding text, also referred to as the “Article on culture”, can be found in Art. 167 of the Treaty of Lisbon (TFEU). It specifies three levels of action. The first concerns the preservation of the cultural diversity of Europe. In addition, it addresses the support of activities of Member States for the protection of the common cultural heritage. The third field of action is the promotion of contemporary artistic and literary creation.

It should be kept in mind, however, that the role of the European Union is restricted in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. This restriction applies both to promoting the cooperation between the cultural players of the Member States and complementing such initiatives. The “cultural competence” rests therefore solely with the Member States.

Looking back, it becomes clear that different initiatives were taken to get actively involved in cultural politics on a transnational level. One of the most prominent examples is the European Capital of Culture project (1985-1999: European City of Culture), launched in 1985 on the initiative of Melina Mercouri, the former Greek Minister of Education. According to Melina Mercouri, the goal of the project was to promote the wealth, diversity and similarities of the cultural heritage in Europe and, at the same time, make a contribution to a better mutual understanding of the European public sphere(s). The European Communities, and from 1993 the European Union have been providing promotional funds for this purpose. The decision to award the “European City (Capital) of Culture” title was originally taken at the intergovernmental level, each Member State would designate a candidate, and each year an international panel would select one or two cities four years in advance. In 2005, pursuant to Article 151 of the TEU (which today corresponds to Article 167 of the TFEU), the selection process was transformed into a Community procedure.

In the simulation game, based on the European Capital of Culture model, an initiative is taken to start a European dimension of cultural policy abroad, outside the EU. The idea is to attract attention to Europe’s diversity around the world in the field of culture by involving as many Member State contributions as possible. Firstly, this external effect should be more multifaceted, and secondly, the imbalance between large and small Member States should be countered. From this understanding, “unity in diversity” is the interaction of numerous and various contributions from the different regions of the European Union.

In this process, the basic challenges and the different approaches of individual Member States start to emerge. The indirect aim is not only to take the differing perspectives in their diversity into account, but to incorporate them in an optimal manner. To strengthen the understanding of backgrounds and differences while finding a common denominator based on that diversity.

INTRO- DUCTION

The idea of creating a “common European home” symbolically expresses the idea of “GIVING EUROPE A HOME”. To build a roof, to create a forum, to provide an organizational or local basis – all these things can be subsumed hereunder. How, in what form and to what extent this can and should happen, remains in the hands and creativity of the participants of the simulation game. The divergent views and approaches from the different perspectives of the Member States that have already been mentioned above are roughly sketched out, but leave room to be individually shaped by the participants of the simulation game. True to the motto “the way is the goal”, the simulation game creates a space for reflection to express similarities through culture by means of optional development opportunities, and literally put new and innovative things into the world based on European variety.

Legal foundations of the cultural policy of the European Union:

Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU):

- “(1) The Union shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore.
- (2) Action by the Union shall be aimed at encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, supporting and supplementing their action in the following areas:
- improvement of the knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of the European peoples,
 - conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of European significance,
 - non-commercial cultural exchanges,
 - artistic and literary creation, including in the audiovisual sector.
- (3) The Union and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organizations in the sphere of culture, in particular the Council of Europe.
- (4) The Union shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaties, in particular in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures.
- (5) In order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in this Article:
- the European Parliament and the Council acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Committee of the Regions, shall adopt incentive measures, excluding any harmonization of the laws and regulations of the Member States.
 - the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt recommendations.”¹

¹ Compare: <https://dejure.org/gesetze/AEUV/167.html>

SIMU- LATION GAME

Course of the simulation game

The simulation game “GIVING EUROPE A HOME” is designed as a one-day event, the suggested schedule specifies a game time of 7.5 hours, including breaks. Three rooms are required that are located close to each other. One room must be able to accommodate all participants.

After a topical and methodological introduction, each player will receive a scenario, a group profile and a role profile, along with the schedule and specific individual drafts.

The following groups will be created:

	20 PARTICIPANTS	36 PARTICIPANTS
Council	8	15
European Parliament	8	15
European Commission	2	4
Media	2	2

If the media group is omitted, a reduced simulation game with 18 roles is possible.

Ministers in the Council

	20 PARTICIPANTS	36 PARTICIPANTS
Germany	X	X
Estonia	-	X
France	X	X
Italy	X	X
Lithuania	-	X
Netherlands	-	X
Austria	X	X
Poland	X	X
Romania	-	X
Sweden	X	X
Slovakia	X	X
Slovenia	-	X
Spain	-	X
United Kingdom	X	X
Cyprus	-	X

Members of the EP

	20 PARTICIPANTS	36 PARTICIPANTS
EPP	3	4
S&D	2	3
ALDE	1	2
Greens	1	2
GUE-NGL	1	2
ECR	1	2

SIMU- LATION GAME

Each group starts with a round of introductions, where each person introduces themselves in their new role with a new name and briefly outlines in two minutes their own goals, without giving away too many details.

The **media group** can directly participate in the rounds of introductions of the bodies already after its creation.

MEPs sit together in their parliamentary groups, **Members of the Council** sit in an alphabetical order of the country names. Afterwards, a person is elected president in each group and chairs the following sessions. Additional persons can be selected to be responsible for contacting other groups or to act as secretary.

Using the draft, the **Commission** prepares at the same time a proposal for a new legal act, along with the opening speech. The **media group** prepares a plan for its own activities and participates in all meetings.

After the first break, the **President of the Commission** opens the joint conference with the opening speech. After a brief exchange, smaller interviews of the media group and informal familiarization of the participants, the groups return to their rooms.

The **Commission** distributes its proposal for a new legal act, first in the Parliament, then in the Council. The text is read and the motives are presented. The Commission or individual Commissioners are usually present at the meetings of the Parliament and of the Council, and have the right to speak.

The **EP** and the **Council** discuss the draft, and the EP passes amendments, of which it informs the Council. Only then, and only based on that modified draft, the Council may itself pass amendments. The EP decides by an absolute majority of its Members. By contrast, the Council generally decides by the so-called qualified majority. In the game, a qualified majority will be achieved if 55 percent of the Member States representatives present represent 65 percent of the population of the Member States present.

The **media group** accompanies each session of the bodies. Halfway through the simulation game (before lunch) and at its end, the media group performs a talk show with guests from all bodies. At the beginning of the talk shows, the media representatives report on the sessions, afterwards guests are interviewed. The entire talk show should be about 20 minutes long.

Ordinary EU legislative procedures

The European Union enacts its legal acts/laws (directives and regulations) with up to three readings in the European Parliament and in the Council on the initiative of the European Commission in accordance with the procedure described in Article 294 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

According to this Article, the Commission initially submits proposals for common acts, regulations (directly applicable legal acts) and directives (legal acts to be transposed by the Member States). The proposals go to the **European Parliament** and the **Council**.

In the **European Parliament**, 751 Members directly elected for a five-year term work in political **parliamentary groups**.

The **Council** is the representation of the **Member States** for the daily work of the EU. It consists of 28 departmental ministers from the national governments.

As soon as the EP passes *amendments to the proposal of the Commission*, the Council is invited to accept these amendments, to reject them, or to pass their own amendments. The first round of change notes is called *First Reading*. If both institutions do not consider any amendments necessary or the Council accepts the EP's amendments, the act can enter into force.

If an agreement is achieved with regard to the amendments during the *Second Reading*, the act is now in force.

However, if the EP and the Council cannot agree at all, the act can also fail. Therefore, both institutions often agree to convene a **Conciliation Committee** after the Second Reading in order to prepare an agreement draft for a *Third Reading*.

The **Conciliation Committee** consists of all Council Members and an equal number of EP Members. If this attempt fails or one of the bodies votes against the joint proposal in the Third Reading, the act has finally failed. If an agreement is reached, the President of the Council and the President of the EP will sign the act so that it enters into force.

The **Presidency of the EP** is elected by its Members for a period of 2.5 years. The **Presidency of the Council** changes every six months, so that each country can take over this task once.

The **Commission** keeps accompanying the proposed legislation in all readings and gives opinions on the amendment requests of the EP. This significantly influences the decision-making process in the Council. In the event of a negative assessment by the Commission, the Council may pass the desired amendment in the second reading only unanimously. If the assessment is positive, a qualified majority will be sufficient. In order to achieve it, a majority of 55 percent of the Member States that represent 65 percent of the EU population is required since November 2014. The EP usually votes by majority.



Ordinary legislative procedure

#1 Commission proposal

European Commission submits legislative proposal to the European Parliament



Citizens' initiative



A quarter of the member states



European Investment Bank



European Central Bank



European Parliament

#2 1st reading in the Parliament

During its 1st reading, the European Parliament examines the Commission's proposal and may adopt or amend it.

#3 1st reading in Council

During its 1st reading, the Council may decide to accept Parliament's position in which case the legislative act is adopted, or it may amend Parliament's position, and return the proposal to Parliament for a 2nd reading.

#4 2nd reading in Parliament

Parliament examines Council's position and approves it, in which case the act is approved; or rejects it, in which case the act will not enter into force and the whole procedure is ended; or proposes amendments and returns the proposal to Council for a 2nd reading.



The legislative proposal is not adopted



The legislative proposal is adopted

The vast majority of proposals are adopted at this stage



The legislative proposal is adopted



The legislative proposal is adopted

#5 2nd reading in Council

Council examines Parliament's 2nd reading position and either approves all of Parliament's amendments meaning the act is adopted, or does not approve all amendments, leading to the convening of the Conciliation Committee.

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#6 Conciliation

The Conciliation Committee, composed of an equal number of MEPs and Council representatives, tries to reach agreement on a joint text. If unsuccessful, the legislative act will not enter into force and the procedure is ended. If a joint text is agreed, it is forwarded to the European Parliament and Council for a 3rd reading.

The legislative proposal **is not adopted**



#7a 3rd reading in Parliament

The European Parliament examines the joint text and votes in plenary. It cannot change the wording of the joint text. If it rejects it or fails to act on it, the act is not adopted and the procedure is ended. If it is approved by Parliament and Council, the act is adopted.

The legislative proposal **is not adopted**



#7b 3rd reading in the Council

Council examines the joint text. It cannot change the wording. If it either rejects or does not act on it, act will not enter into force and the procedure is ended. If it approves the text and the Parliament also approves it, the act is adopted



The legislative proposal **is not adopted**

Proposal adopted

Once both European Parliament and Council have approved the final text of a legislative proposal, it is jointly signed by the Presidents and Secretaries General of both institutions. After signature, the texts are published in the Official Journal and become official.

- Regulations are directly binding throughout the EU as of the date set down in the Official Journal.
- Directives lay down end results to be achieved in every member state, but leaves it up to national governments to decide how to adapt their laws to achieve these goals. Each directive specifies the date by which the national laws must be adapted.
- Decisions apply in specific cases, involving particular authorities or individuals and are fully binding.



Proposal not adopted

If a legislative proposal is rejected at any stage of the procedure, or the Parliament and Council cannot reach a compromise, the proposal is not adopted and the procedure is ended. A new procedure can start only with a new proposal from the Commission.



SIMU- LATION GAME

Schedule

We recommend the following schedule for a playing time of 7,5 hours (including breaks):

30 minutes: **Introduction** to the topic, simulation game rules

45 minutes: **Getting into** the roles

10 minutes: **Opening** through the Commission speech at a joint conference

10 minutes: Break

20 minutes: The **Commission** submits its proposal with explanatory notes to the EP and the Council

45 minutes: Both the **EP** and the **Council** discuss the proposal in the First Reading

5 minutes: The **EP** informs the Council of amendments

10 minutes: Break

15 minutes: The **Council** discusses the EP's amendments and decides on them (*the legal act is enacted if the Council approves all items*)

15 minutes: The **Commission** decides and delivers an opinion on the Council decision

15 minutes: Taking the Commission's opinion into account, the **EP** discusses the Council decision in the Second Reading (*if all amendments are approved, the legal act is enacted, if they are rejected, it has failed, in the event of a new change note it will be forwarded to the Commission and the Council*)

10 minutes: The **Commission** delivers a negative or positive opinion on the EP's amendments

15 minutes: The **Council** discusses the EP's amendments in the Second Reading. (*In the event of a negative assessment by the Commission, the Council may pass the desired amendment in the second reading only unanimously. If the assessment is positive, a qualified majority will be sufficient. If all amendments are approved, the legal act is enacted, if they are rejected, a Conciliation Committee will be convened.*)

10 minutes: **The Presidency of the EP and of the Council** agree on convening the Conciliation Committee (*all Council members and an equal number of MEPs, the Commission participates in an advisory capacity*)

20 minutes: Talk show of the **media group**

45 minutes: Lunch break

30 minutes: Meeting of the **Conciliation Committee**

15 minutes: **EP and Council** each vote in the Third Reading (*if approved, the legal act is enacted, if rejected in the EP or in the Council, it has failed*)

15 minutes: Formal **signature** of the legal act

20 minutes: Talk show of the **media group**

30 minutes: **Evaluation**

SIMU- LATION GAME

After the simulation game

The simulation game must be followed by an intensive evaluation. Practically, this means that the participants leave their roles at this moment. The game officially ends, no one plays a role any more. Questions that have occurred in the course of playing can be now addressed and discussed. For pedagogical reasons, the aim of the evaluation is also to compare the results of the simulation game with reality. We need to see what results have been achieved and how they fit reality. Which learning objective has been achieved?

Evaluation

For the evaluation, we have formulated several key questions. They refer to the content-related learning objectives the participants have achieved through the simulation game. They also make everyone aware why the simulation game has been performed.

Red and green voting cards are a vivid and proven option to work with. Each participant receives a red and a green card. Red stands for “no/rejection”, green for “yes/consent”. They allow to quickly determine the common mood. They also enable rather quiet participants to express their opinion on the issues, without necessarily having to verbally express themselves. Thus, the whole group participates and is involved in the process.

For the evaluation, we suggest key questions which can be modified and/or supplemented.

On the simulation game:

- Was I happy with my role? Why / why not?
- Was I able to realize the objectives of my role? Why / why not?
- Which role or group was able to enforce their goals best? Why?

Comparison with reality:

- Was the simulation game (play) realistic?
- What was realistic and what was not?
- Have I learned something from the simulation game? (Concrete questions chosen by the simulation game supervisor can follow here as well. Example: Is a European House desirable? How should it look like?)

This is the reality

Cultural policy as such is a young policy field of the EU. It was only with the Treaty on European Union which had entered into force on November 1, 1993 that the first legal basis for politico-cultural involvement at European level was created. Through this competence that today can be found in Art. 167 of the TFEU (the so-called “Article on culture”), three possible levels of political action open up to the European Union in the area of culture. The first level concerns the preservation of the cultural diversity of Europe. In addition, the second level provides the support of activities of Member States for the protection of the common cultural heritage. Another sphere of action at the third level allows the promotion of contemporary artistic and literary creation.

In this context, it is paramount to keep in mind, however, that the role of the European Union can be restricted in accordance with the so-called principle of subsidiarity. Action at the Member State level will take precedence over joint action at the Union level, should the Member States exercise this right. Thus, the “cultural competence” described above also rests with the Member States and has not been transferred entirely to the Union.

In the past, different successful initiatives had been taken to get actively involved in cultural politics on the transnational Union level, partially even before the Treaty on European Union entered into force. One of the most prominent examples is the European Capital of Culture project (1985-1999: European City of Culture), already launched in 1985 on the initiative of Melina Mercouri, the former Greek Minister of Education. The idea behind it is to emphasize the wealth, diversity and similarities of the cultural heritage in Europe and, at the same time, make a contribution to a better mutual understanding of the European public sphere(s). The European Union provides the framework and promotional funds for this purpose.

In the simulation game, based on the European Capital of Culture model, an initiative is taken to start a European dimension of cultural policy abroad, outside the EU. On various occasions, individual cultural institutes of the Member States have already collaborated with each other, e.g. during projects or by sharing buildings. With the establishment of the European Network of National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) in 2007, a cooperation was initiated to “make Europe’s cultural diversity visible both within and outside the EU”.²

However, the possible dimension of a new form of cooperation and a common European alignment of foreign cultural policy, as discussed in the simulation game, does not exist yet.

In May 2016, in her “EU Global Strategy”, Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy,³ has highlighted the importance of European cultures and their joint presentation at international level. This means a close connection to foreign and cultural policy as integral part and reliable instrument between people. Already in February 2016, a cultural diplomacy platform has been launched in Brussels.

² Compare: <http://berlin.eunic-online.eu/?q=de/content/auftrag-0>, available: August 6, 2016

³ https://ec.europa.eu/germany/news/eu-legt-strategie-zur-kulturdiplomatie-vor_de, available: August 6, 2016

SIMU- LATION GAME

Thus, an important position is assigned to cultural policy within European foreign policy, in which a growing importance can be seen from today's perspective. Consequently, there are indications that a changed and thus increased relevance will be granted to foreign cultural policy of a European format. However, it is still unclear whether the European Commission will or can take this initiative of the High Representative who, after all, is a Commission member herself, as an occasion for its own legislative initiatives in the policy field of culture, and, if so, in which form.

Within those observable trends, this simulation game takes a look ahead and, in its scenario, lets possible debates which will be held in the European policy in the coming years become "reality" already today. geführt werden.

SCE- NARIO

SCENARIO

Europe's unity has seen better days. The reputation of the European Union is at a historic low – the project is increasingly perceived as a failure. Instead, since the beginning of the new millennium, the continent seems to stumble from one crisis to another. Be it the single currency, the fate of people in need, or even belonging to the European Union as such: there are plenty of controversial topics. The area of culture seems to be the only exception, where everything goes as planned or is quietly under way in an innovative and colorful manner, where we see various forms of cooperation.

Regardless of the conflict, the President of the European Commission is always heavily criticized, along with his 27 colleagues, the Commissioners. He is also expected to solve the challenges of the entire continent. But now, despite being an experienced politician, he is increasingly plagued by major concerns. More and more, he has the impression that each common challenge increasingly drives the Member States apart. Common solutions would be required instead. It particularly saddens him that the Heads of State and Government, actually the entire Commission, in their role as the “most European of all European bodies”, as the “guardian of the Treaties” and the motor of integration, want to make him sit “at the side table” and rather make decisions on their own. Even though he has so many ideas how to make the European Union fit again. How its spirit could be revived, if only they would let him...! It would be nice to at last go beyond the scope of day-to-day business, away from the economic issues, towards a more appealing, catchy topic. This all requires to finally think and act outside the box! These are the secret thoughts of the President of the Commission.

Something has to be done. In a hurry, he seeks advice and support with his colleagues. Only his closest associates, some Commissioners and staff members belong to the circle that participates in the development of new ideas. No one should hear about it yet. After all, he has an ambitious plan, so that the vision of the common enterprise can take shape again.

At a meeting in the shielded premises of the Berlaymont building in Brussels, the headquarters of the Commission, the President of the Commission lets all those present in on his plan. He wants to shake up the European Union with a completely surprising proposal. The President of the European Commission is still not quite sure, however, how this proposal should look like down to the last detail. It was the civic duty of every European to reflect on what should be done. A signal was needed which was so strong that we could speak in good conscience of a real new beginning. This was the right moment and place.

Among those present is also the Commissioner for Education and Culture. Education and culture – like everywhere else, these were the so-called “soft” topics in the European Union. The section is little known to the outside, and only through its journal, the quarterly “*La Culture/The Culture*” magazine. The magazine is published in six languages – German, English, French, Italian, Polish and Spanish, but has a pan-European impact only in exceptional cases. The Commission also protects and promotes the European cultural heritage, and supports the cultural and creative industries with their valuable contribution to growth and employment. The Commission believes that the cultural sector could be a key factor of social development to a much higher degree! At the same time, it is recognized that lately this potential has hardly been used – quite on the contrary, it has been largely ignored.

SCE- NARIO

As agreed, the President of the Commission says nothing to his team. However, he instructs the office to look for new, surprising and innovative proposals! In short, proposals that no one would expect. The persons addressed are amazed and delighted at the same time. It almost appears that everybody is inspired by the newly-awakened European spirit. Some remember the beginnings of the idea of the European Capital of Culture which to this day enjoys great interest and has had some remarkable impact. Back then, the purpose was the same: to show the European ideal in art and culture. To look across borders, to open the horizon of thinking! To make Europe not only visible, but tangible, even perceptible as something great and common!

The thinking process begins. After searching for some time, a clever intern who has been let in on the secret by her boss, the Commissioner for Education and Culture, has an idea while reading the Treaties. Immediately, she rushes to her: she has come across Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. This Article showed a real cultural competence of the European Union, she insists. Why is this competence put to such little use, even though it was already surrendered to the European Union by the Member States?

The Commissioner is aware of the difficulties. Article 167 is part of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Treaty of Lisbon. It represents a central standard with regard to questions on cultural policy in the European Union. Theoretically, it already played an important role in the older treaties, what was missing, however, was the practical implementation. This Article stipulates that the European Union is allowed to take action in matters of cultural policy. As in any other policy field, however, the European Commission cannot decide on its own, but must rely on the participation of the European Parliament and the EU Council. Still, it has an important function: as the only body, it can take the initiative and propose a legal act.

The Commissioner recalls a conversation she recently had with the director of a cultural institute outside the European continent. In this country, a common Europe Day with his colleagues from all over the EU was planned. A large, nationwide competition was announced. The idea was that students would interpret European operas. The best participant would get a cash prize and a trip to Europe. The representative residents of other cultural institutes did not support the idea. To some, the art form itself did not seem suitable – they rather envisaged classical dramas. Others lacked the financial resources to participate. After all, operas were too special an art form for most, with which they were insufficiently familiar. Thus, the project was canceled even before its launch. All were left with a sense of great disappointment.

Already then the question arose what the European External Action Service was for. Why not also build a house of European culture? To show Europe's spiritual and cultural diversity to the world. And thus also make Europe realize that we have much more in common than we have to separate us.

The planning begins. The President of the Commission and his staff members shall formulate a draft law at lightning speed. Admittedly, there are some things to decide, e.g. target groups, languages, goals. Many issues involve potential conflicts. The enthusiasm is written on the face of the President of the Commission. Was it not the Union's founding father Jean Monnet to whom one of the most famous phrases is attributed: "If I were to start Europe anew, I would start from culture"?

Even though it is now known that Jean Monnet has in fact never said this sentence, it would fit the current situation perfectly. The President of the Commission heaved a sigh of relief, because this was the proposal so feverishly sought after. A phone call with the President of the European Parliament and another one with the Council of the European Union follow. A press event is fixed. The proposal “Above all other: culture” is to be presented to the European public.

But first, the approach must be elaborated in detail. The Commission’s experts have the following unresolved issues in mind:

1st area of conflict: European week or European House right away?

Some Member States are actually satisfied with the status quo. Large countries maintain their own cultural institutes throughout the world anyway. In this context, it even seems rather inconvenient to give Brussels a new control option. However, it is always possible to arrange for more “European weeks” that are determined centrally by the EU for the entire EU and are devoted to a specific topic through a variety of actions. More joint projects instead of new institutes could be a guiding principle in this respect! If the attempts are successful, one could still think about establishing new “European” institutes.

For others, such considerations do not go far enough. The issue should be comprehensively and thus properly addressed: Only a real “European House”, comparable with the institutions that some EU countries operate abroad, like the Goethe Institutes or the British Council, is worth considering, and it is best to establish it in the shortest possible time all around the world. Informal and non-binding cooperation has been going on long enough. There is only one entity suitable for the task of becoming active on a pan-European level: the European Union. Only then it would be possible primarily for small countries to actually participate in the project. But even large countries could enjoy the added value and prestige for all that a European House would provide. And when we get the ball rolling, could the skeptics still hold back and restrain themselves?

2nd area of conflict: offer and content

There are Member States who always want to put their rich cultural heritage in the balance, or are even under the impression that they have to. Is it not the close historical ties and interlinking that characterizes Europe as a cultural space? When European culture is taken to the outside world, things such as opera, classical literature, but also folk dance and costumes are absolutely essential.

Others are more critical. They think that Europe is much more than just a museum of yesterday. Especially the achievements of history must be continually “translated”. Only the transmission into the here and now makes Europe and its culture understandable. In addition, Europe has always been interlinked not only within, but also with the outside world. This must also be reflected in the offer of a European cultural institute: after all, Europe has a lot to offer, from education to lifestyle. Why not let works of art shine against the night sky, or combine architecture under water or poetry slam with light art?

The main thing is, the offer is so innovative that it goes beyond the ideas of a purely European world view.

3rd area of conflict: the role of language(s)

It still remains to be seen, however, in which language the “European House” will work and offer its projects. Or will there even be language courses on offer? For some, language is closely linked to culture, or even a central part of it. European culture cannot be grasped without European languages. After all, European languages have shaped large parts of the world and are therefore of fundamental importance for interlinking the continent with the outside world. One thing is clear: language courses certainly play an important role. Still, it would be a mistake to concentrate on merely one, two, or only the major languages. All parties should be open to explore various options, however.

For others, there is no reason to additionally offer language courses under the flag of the EU. Attention should rather be given to projects with an immediate and direct impact! In any case, the great linguistic diversity of the continent must always be portrayed. Small countries in particular fear the dominance of larger countries. After all, many consider language primarily as a technical tool. Therefore, it is not unimportant, but at any rate secondary when it comes to the process of conveying culture. According to this approach, if language is to play a role, then only in a comprehensive context, for example with multilingual or artistic language accents, such as poetry festivals or theater projects.

4th area of conflict: 100% Europe or “E pluribus unum” (in English: Out of many, one)?

Should such a “European House” only provide the framework, where everyone contributes (also to the costs)? Or is it primarily about own offerings? Of course, the motto “unity in diversity” means that several countries must always be involved. Some can well imagine that the new “European Houses” will be built in close proximity to existing national offers. And if you already do that, why not take over the staff as well? After all, synergies that can be achieved in this way benefit everyone. In addition to the staff, efficient structures could be taken over, too. Resource keys, work schedules, rotation systems: Why reinvent the wheel when it already works well elsewhere?

Others would prefer to reconsider the structure and develop it from scratch. Some have neither personnel nor extensive financial resources. If “unity in diversity” is to be taken seriously, it must be much more than a marginal phenomenon and occasional small tenders. Apart from that, however, not everything must be planned out already today. That is just the way it is with new things: one must be able to try out and see how they work. In addition, not all Member States already have so much experience in foreign cultural policy.

5th area of conflict: geographical focus of the institutes?

Where should Europe become active? On the one hand, some countries will be in favor of a “one-fits-all model”: a project that can be used all over the world. This is the only

way to get the whole scope of cultural policy. Why should you limit yourself in the planning phase already? To be open for everything, that is what the motto must be.

Other countries, however, have bigger ideas. Some European governments have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose.

It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east and south of the continent. If there are resources left then, the degree of internationalism can still be increased.

Article 6: financing

Finally, the crucial question is: where should the money come from? On the one hand, the EU could pay for everything: structure, personnel and projects alike. Some who would not benefit from the new structure comparably to the rest find that unfair, however. Why not finance the structure only and let the participating Member States finance the projects?

A middle course could be to partly finance the projects from the EU budget, and partly from a new key. This would make it possible to let everybody partake according to their willingness to participate and their capacity. After all, clear rules would benefit all. Others reject any kind of a fixed allocation key out of principle. Most of the time, such a key is considerably overestimated right from the start. And nobody can or wants to immediately commit oneself long-term. In particular, if it is presently not clear what will concretely emerge from the new project.

Legal foundations of the cultural policy of the European Union:

Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU):

- “(1) The Union shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore.
- (2) Action by the Union shall be aimed at encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, supporting and supplementing their action in the following areas:
- improvement of the knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of the European peoples,
 - conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of European significance,
 - non-commercial cultural exchanges,
 - artistic and literary creation, including in the audiovisual sector.
- (3) The Union and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organizations in the sphere of culture, in particular the Council of Europe.
- (4) The Union shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaties, in particular in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures.
- (5) In order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in this Article:
- the European Parliament and the Council acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Committee of the Regions, shall adopt incentive measures, excluding any harmonization of the laws and regulations of the Member States.
 - the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt recommendations.”⁴

⁴ Compare: <https://dejure.org/gesetze/AEUV/167.html>

GROUP PROFILE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission is the executive arm of the European Union. It is committed to the good of the Union as a whole and is only accountable to the European Parliament. As a “driving force of integration”, the European Commission has decisively driven forward the integration process since the establishment of the European Union and its predecessor organizations. In the European Union, only the Commission has the right to propose a bill. Only the Commission can submit proposals to the Council and the European Parliament for the further development of European Union policies. Conversely, neither the European Parliament nor the Council can act of their own. If both deem it necessary to take action in a policy area, they must ask the Commission to exercise its right of initiative. This means that the Commission takes on a particularly important role among the European institutions.

Time and again in the legislative process, the threads converge at the Commission. An important function of the Commission is the mediation between the different interests of the individual Member States in the Council or between the European Parliament and the Council. As the so-called “guardian of the Treaties”, the Commission also responsible for monitoring compliance with EU law. If the Commission suspects that a Member State violates Community law, it can arraign the Member State before the European Court of Justice.

The European Commission is composed of the President and currently 27 other Commissioners. Each Commissioner is responsible for a special policy field. Decisions are made in the Commission by majority. Usually, however, a consensus is sought, so the Commissioners try to avoid any votes against. The term of office as Commissioner is five years and lies between two elections to the European Parliament, respectively.

ROLE PROFILE**President of the Commission (from Croatia)**

You are the President of the European Commission. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Zagreb

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Croatian, regionally also Italian and Serbian

POPULATION

4.4 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 10,200

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

3,1 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

10,6 %

In the Republic of Croatia, approx. 4.4 million inhabitants live on over 56,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Croatia takes 21st place among the EU Member States. When the East-West divide came to an end, Croatia broke away from the state community of Yugoslavia and became an independent country. This small country successfully managed to join the EU in 2013. With an estimated economic performance of 46 billion euro in 2014, Croatia takes 20th place among the economic partners in the EU.

As a citizen of such a young EU Member State, you are proud that you can hold such a high and crucial EU office. You want to show everyone that you are up to the task. You think that your origin benefits you. You come from a country which still experienced war and violence in the 1990s, and know therefore very well how important it is to solve political disputes peacefully. In addition, your view of the EU is still relatively “fresh”. Yes, it is true, you do not have decades of experience as an EU member. You believe that this is exactly the reason why you have been elected. A majority of the EU Member States and Members of the European Parliament did not want someone who had been shaping European policy for decades. There are several such “old hands” in the EU. Those who have been part of the system for too long, however, are not always the ones with the best ideas. Sometimes you have to be revolutionary.

Your new idea follows precisely this approach. You want something completely new for the EU. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.



Due to the small size of your home country and the fact that it achieved independence from Yugoslavia only in 1991, it has little experience with foreign cultural policy. In 2014, it was decided to establish the “Croatia House” that does not maintain its own infrastructure of cultural institutes yet and has only sporadically funded projects abroad. In addition, no city in Croatia has had the title of the “European Capital of Culture”. Still, you know that cultural diversity is important to hold a plural society together. Minorities must be taken into account, also by promoting their languages. For a long time, Croatia was part of Austria-Hungary. Not least because of this, it has many things in common with its neighbors. This also applies to the countries of former Yugoslavia, with whom Croatia also has a long shared history. Cultural diversity and openness have always been considered important values in Croatia. A small, but important detail should not go unmentioned: The article of clothing named “tie” goes back to the name of a Croatian people. In the 17th century, the Croatian soldiers wore a similar garment around the neck, a necklace with fringe by which they were fairly easy to identify. Many Croatians are of course very proud of that fact.

Needless to say, you are committed to the welfare of the Union as a whole, you have to pursue the goals of the European Union. But the knowledge about the situation in your home country also plays a role. Discuss with your colleagues in the Commission how a proposal should look like to achieve the widest consent. Of course, from your point of view, it would be best if the Commission got as much power as possible. You advocate a proposal that will cover as much common ground as possible. Of course, you also need to be careful that as many persons involved as possible will feel taken in. You have often experienced how difficult that is. Reconciling the interests of the Member States and the European Parliament often looks like riding a razor blade. One thing is quite clear to you, however: The idea must work, that is your major goal! Your strategy: to be diplomatic in tone, but never lose sight of the goal!

Here are some general hints about your tasks: You chair the meetings of the Commission. To this end, you give the floor to the person who requests to speak. You can also ask all members of your institution to make a statement. You organize the votes and record the results. You always have to be strict with time. If time is in short supply, you can close the list of registered contributions. You can also limit the speaking-time. You are responsible for contact with the media. Explain the attitude of the Commission.

You can have a press spokesperson elected for this task in your institution. You are also responsible for contacts with the other institutions. One or more persons that have been elected by your Commission may support or represent you.

ROLE PROFILE**Commissioner for Education (from Finland)**

You are a member of the European Commission. Try to understand its position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Helsinki

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Finnish, Swedish

POPULATION

5.4 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 37,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.5 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

11.2 %

In the Republic of Finland, approx. 5.4 million inhabitants live on nearly 400,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Finland takes 18th place among the EU Member States. When the East-West divide of the continent came to an end after 1990, Finland joined the EU together with Austria and Sweden in 1995, maintaining its traditional neutrality. Due to its very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Finland, despite its small size, takes 12th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an estimated economic performance of 199 billion euro in 2014.

You are a member of the Commission for the second time already. During the previous term of office, you were responsible for the internal market, your current responsibility is education. Both areas are right up your street. You think that the importance of the internal market for the EU cannot be underestimated. There is no other policy area as the internal market where integration has progressed so far and there are so few doubts. In the area of education, however, the integration has not made much progress yet, which is also due to the fact that the EU has only a few competences in that field. Unlike in the past, you want to take full advantage of this competence framework, however. In addition, you find it extremely important to emphasize that cooperation in the field of education always has an economic benefit as well.

This can be very well observed in your home country. For you, the economic success is directly bound up with the fact that for years, Finland has ranked among the leaders in the PISA program for the international comparison of educational levels.



You also bring some experience from Finland in the field of foreign cultural policy. No less than 16 “Finland Institutes” present the Finnish culture to the world, and Finland is particularly active in the regional cultural cooperation with the Scandinavian countries. Again, you see direct economic benefits of cultural policy: only those who know Finland buy Finnish products. You are convinced that cultural diversity is important to hold a plural society together. Minorities must be taken into account, also by promoting their languages. The Finnish culture has always been absorbing influences, both from Western Europe and Russia. A great influence was Sweden, to which Finland had belonged for centuries, and also Germany, with which Finland had always maintained lively trade relations. Cultural diversity and openness have always been considered important values in Finland. Although most Finns maintain a very modern lifestyle, the traditional country life and closeness to nature, as well as the daily use of the sauna continue to play an important role in Finland’s cultural identity.

Needless to say, you are committed to the welfare of the Union as a whole, you have to pursue the goals of the European Union. But the knowledge about the situation in your home country also plays a role, of course. Discuss with your colleagues in the Commission how a proposal should look like to achieve the widest consent. Of course, from your point of view, it would be best if as much competence as possible got transferred to the Commission. You advocate a proposal that will cover as much common ground as possible. Of course, you also need to be careful that as many persons involved as possible will feel taken in. You have often experienced how difficult that is. Reconciling the interests of the Member States and the European Parliament often looks like riding a razor blade. One thing is quite clear to you, however: The idea must work, that is your major goal! Your strategy: to be diplomatic in tone, but never lose sight of the goal!

ROLE PROFILE**Commissioner for Culture (from Portugal)**

You are a member of the European Commission. Try to understand its position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Lisbon

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Portuguese

POPULATION

10.6 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 16,700

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.0 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

13.5 %

In the Republic of Portugal, approx. 10.6 million inhabitants live on nearly 93,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Portugal takes 11th place among the EU Member States. Portugal has been a member of the European Communities already since 1986. By means of the “Carnation Revolution”, the people of Portugal were able to end the military dictatorship. Its European partners supported the country’s path to a stable democracy. When the East-West divide of Europe came to an end, Portugal founded the European Union along with eleven other Western European countries in 1993. In addition, Portugal was one of the first countries to adopt the euro.

Portugal was heavily hit by the international financial and economic crisis. The Portuguese banking sector could only be saved thanks to the support of the euro countries. The state got into debt, reaching the stage of insolvency, and had to make serious cuts in its economic and social policies. Due to its quite versatile economic structure with a competitive industry, Portugal takes 15th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an estimated economic performance of 168 billion euro in 2014.

You are a member of the Commission for the first time, previously you have been director of the Portuguese National Museum in Lisbon for many years. You come from the field of real high culture. At the same time, you always had to act in a politically skillful way to create the best possible conditions for your museum. You are not frightened that you have little experience in the political arena. A good standing in the cultural scene is of particular importance in your field, and you definitely have that. There are hardly any cultural decision-makers in Europe who you do not know!

In addition, you definitely bring some experience from Portugal with regard to international cultural work, which does not only result from managing the National Museum in Lisbon. Although Portugal has no own infrastructure of cultural institutes abroad, Lisbon (1994), Porto (2001) and Guimarães (2012) were European Cities (Capitals) of Culture. In addition, there is intense cooperation particularly with those countries where Portuguese is still an important language (e.g. Brazil and Angola). Portugal has an ancient culture that had a defining force in the history of the world. Portugal is sometimes referred to as a “country of the poets”. Poetry was widely used in the Portuguese literature, especially in the Middle Ages, when the Portuguese nation was formed. Today, Portuguese modern literature also has international significance, with works of José Saramago, the Nobel prize winner for literature in 1998, being particularly well known.

Needless to say, you are committed to the welfare of the Union as a whole, you have to pursue the goals of the European Union. But the knowledge about the situation in your home country also plays a role, of course. Discuss with your colleagues in the Commission how a proposal should look like to achieve the widest consent. Of course, from your point of view, it would be best if the Commission got as much power as possible. You advocate a proposal that will cover as much common ground as possible. Of course, you also need to be careful that as many persons involved as possible will feel taken in. You have often experienced how difficult that is. Reconciling the interests of the Member States and the European Parliament often looks like riding a razor blade. One thing is quite clear to you, however: The idea must work, that is your major goal! Your strategy: to be diplomatic in tone, but never lose sight of the goal!

You are very open with regard to the content-related design of the project. Although you can understand that some persons involved rather back traditional, established culture, you also think that culture needs to be constantly renewed unless it is to solidify into a ritual. Therefore, you are quite open to new and unconventional projects and ideas.



ROLE PROFILE**Commissioner for Multilingualism (from Hungary)**

You are a member of the European Commission. Try to understand its position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Budapest

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Hungarian

POPULATION

10 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 10,600

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

3.7 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.5 %

In the Republic of Hungary, approx. 10 million inhabitants live on nearly 93,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Hungary takes 13th place among the EU Member States. Until 1989, the old People's Republic of Hungary was an Eastern bloc country aligned with the Soviet Union, excluded from the democratic unification of Western Europe. After the first free elections in 1990, the Republic of Hungary had sought to accede to the European Union which it finally joined together with other central and eastern European countries on January 1, 2004. Hungary has not yet adopted the euro. The economic structure of the country is still relatively weak. With a gross domestic product of approx. 101 billion euro in 2014, it takes 18th place among the economic partners in the EU.

As a citizen of such a young EU Member State, you are proud that you can hold such a high EU office as Commissioner. You want to show everyone that you are up to the task. You think that your origin benefits you. You come from a country whose language is not part of the Indo-European languages, which practically prevents it from being understood by people from other countries. Therefore, you know how important it is to master foreign languages if you want to work together internationally. In addition, your view of the EU is still relatively "fresh". You simply do not have decades of experience as an EU member. There are several "old hands" in the EU. Those who have been part of the system for too long, however, are not always the ones with the best ideas. Sometimes you have to be revolutionary.

Your new idea follows precisely this approach, you want something completely new for the EU. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea's potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.



As a citizen of a country that so quickly has benefited so much from the integration with the European Union, you basically perceive yourself as a Europe-friendly player. Recently, however, you have become careful to some degree with regard to the further development of European integration. Is it really advisable to start in the area of culture? In this field, Hungary certainly has enough own tasks to take care of. But perhaps such a project could help with them as well? If you lead an objective discussion, it could be possible to find a result with potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world. In the end, this will help Hungary as well.

With its 23 “Balassi Institutes” (Hungarian: Balassi Intézet) worldwide, Hungary has its own infrastructure of cultural institutes abroad. In addition, Pécs was European Capital of Culture as early as 2010. Thus, Hungary has experience with the international presentation of its culture and language. Although Hungary is a rather small Member State, it appears to exude confidence and does not want to let other, larger EU Member States make decisions for it. Hungary often cooperates with the other Visegrad Group countries (Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic). For a long time, Hungary was part of the Habsburg Monarchy, therefore it has culturally a lot in common with its neighboring countries as well. In Hungary, culture has been upheld in all its facets for centuries. A small, but important detail should not go unmentioned: After the London Underground, the Budapest Metro is the second oldest rapid transit in the world and was commissioned in Hungary on the occasion of the celebrations for the millennial land seizure in 1896. Many Hungarians are very proud of that fact even today.

Needless to say, you are committed to the welfare of the Union as a whole, you have to pursue the goals of the European Union. But the knowledge about the situation in your home country also plays a role, of course. Discuss with your colleagues in the Commission how a proposal should look like to achieve the widest consent. Of course, from your point of view, it would be best if the Commission got as much power as possible. You advocate a proposal that will cover as much common ground as possible. Of course, you also need to be careful that as many persons involved as possible will feel taken in. You have often experienced how difficult that is.

Reconciling the interests of the Member States and the European Parliament often looks like riding a razor blade. One thing is quite clear to you, however: The idea must work, that is your major goal! Your strategy: to be diplomatic in tone, but never lose sight of the goal!

COM- MISSION

Commission – proposals for the legal act

The European Commission will present a proposal for a regulation on the closer cooperation in the field of cultural policy at European Union level. The European Commission discusses various possibilities to achieve that objective. These proposals have been drawn up by the team of the President of the European Commission, the so-called Cabinet, and the involved Directorates-General for Education, Culture and Multilingualism.

The European Parliament and the Council are working on this proposal and will finally jointly enact the regulation. A regulation is an act which applies directly throughout the EU.

The Commission intends to describe and achieve the basic objectives of European cultural policy in six articles of the regulation:

At first, the structure of the future involvement of the European Union must be fundamentally clarified.

In **Article 1**, a choice must be made if the idea to establish a permanent offer in the form of a “European House” should be followed, or if it is better to continue the current practice of isolated, time-limited offers (cp. European Cities (Capitals) of Culture) in the form of “European weeks”. In both cases, the cooperation would be strengthened, although with a very different intensity.

Article 2 answers the question, which offers and content should be covered by the European Union’s involvement. The offer could be very narrowly defined and refer to the history of the Member States and the process of European integration, focusing on the fundamental values of the Union, in particular the internal market. In contrast to the above, a very wide approach could also be taken into consideration, which shows European culture in all its known and surprising, traditional and innovative, controversial and contradictory forms, as it renews itself at all times in its diversity and, in turn, also (critically) questions itself. It is difficult to describe art according to objective criteria.

Article 3 discusses a question that is typically very European, but also very relevant for practice. Which languages of the Member States will find entry into the cultural project of the European Union? Should attention be paid to an absolutely equal treatment of all official languages of the European Union, or is a more individual, freer treatment possible, depending on the art form and project? In addition, the question arises whether notably language courses can be a part of the European offer.

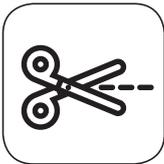
COM- MISSION

Article 4 continues with the question about content and therefore supplements Article 2 that already contains a fundamental consideration. Can a planned European culture project (European House / European weeks) also offer space for national exhibitions, projects, and more offers, or does the project intend to include the obligation that the type and extent of the presentation must be designed as solely multicultural or European, i.e. by many or even all Member States of the European Union?

In addition, **Article 5** clarifies the geographical scope of the envisaged project. Should the regulation describe a project that takes effect worldwide for the European Union and its Member States, or should it (initially) only apply to clearly specified regions that are located in close proximity to the European Union and, for the most part, define and consider themselves as European? This issue is closely linked to the question if European cultural policy should be understood as an important part of the European Union's foreign policy which is still in its infancy. This raises another question: who will be responsible for the implementation of the regulation?

Finally, **Article 6** wants to amicably clarify the issue of financing. Funding could be done entirely from the budget of the European Union. All Member States pay into the budget of the European Union according to a fixed key. In addition, there are also the so-called own resources of the European Union (e.g. revenues from customs duties). However, a different key to financially involve the Member States in the costs would also be conceivable. Here, it is important to note that the European Union has only a few independent means. The bulk of the budgetary funds is provided by the Member States.

For each Article, you can choose between two wordings. Select one wording for each Article. (Please cut them out, glue them on the "Proposal for a regulation" blank form and make a copy for all participants.)



ARTICLE 1

Alternative a) The European Union maintains a worldwide structure for the promotion and presentation of the cultural activities of its Member States. The Member States shall perform foreign cultural activities under their own responsibility. The Commission shall organizationally and financially support the Member States in the coordination of such activities, for instance during “European weeks”.

Alternative b) The European Union shall build “European Houses” outside of Europe that will bundle all activities of the Member States and of the European Union. In this way, the cultures of the European continent and the cultural and political activities of the Member States will be presented in their diversity and in their common heritage. The European Commission shall be responsible for establishing and operating the “European Houses”.

ARTICLE 2

Alternative a) The offer shall be focused on the presentation of the rich cultural heritage and the history of the European continent. It is the close historical ties and interlinking that makes Europe attractive and competitive as a cultural space. Shaping the Western world in peace and freedom originated from Europe, with different geographical focus. The Union’s noblest task is to learn from that rich history, and to make it fruitful for future generations. Therefore, the presentation of achievements of high culture is a particular (but not an exclusive) priority of all cultural policy measures.

Alternative b) The cultural policy activities of the European Union are focused in particular on the promotion and presentation of innovative, modern and new forms of culture and art. Not only the world history, but also modern art forms originated from the European continent. Only a funding policy that enshrines a permanent renewal as its highest priority can serve the exchange with a culturally increasingly global world, and help to be enthusiastic for the European Union and the European continent. In particular, it is not the task of the European Union to demonstrate the contribution of individual countries to the historic development of the European continent or the rest of the world.

ARTICLE 3

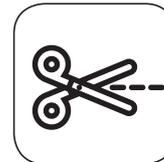
Alternative a)

The global presence of the major European languages is a particularly striking feature of European identity. Therefore, it must be definitely incorporated into the presentation of European cultural achievements – after all, it also serves the international interlinking with language communities from the area of today’s Europe. Language courses can be offered for example by “European Houses” with the participation of the involved Member States. For all activities, the languages of the involved Member States are the working language.

Alternative b) The diversity of European languages is a particularly striking feature of European identity. Therefore, it must be definitely incorporated into the presentation of European cultural achievements. At the same time, language is not constitutive of the cultural achievements of the continent. Rather, it is a means of expression and a work tool among many. With all activities focused on language, strict equality of treatment must be ensured. Multilingual projects shall be given priority. The European Union shall not offer language courses.

ARTICLE 4

Alternative a) The international presentation of culture is nothing new for most Member States. Many Member States already maintain their own cultural institutes abroad. It is important that those experiences are put to use. Therefore, all European activities take place in close coordination with the Member State organizations already present in the country concerned who were able to garner experience. Where appropriate, the takeover of already existing concepts and structures should be considered in accordance with the “best-practice approach”.



Alternative b) The European activities follow the “E pluribus unum” approach (English: Out of many, one). All activities shall be planned from scratch with all Member States. All existing approaches to foreign cultural activities shall be evaluated on an equal footing with new approaches.

ARTICLE 5

Alternative a) It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. The new activities of foreign cultural policy have explicitly no specific geographical focus and shall be performed worldwide.

Alternative b) The new activities of foreign cultural policy shall be based on the guidelines of European foreign policy. Therefore, they shall be performed by the European External Action Service (EEAS). It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. The focus of activities shall be on countries of the European Neighborhood Policy that are located next to the EU to the east and south.

ARTICLE 6

Alternative a) The new activities of foreign cultural policy shall be financed entirely from the budget of the European Union.

Alternative b) 50% of the new activities of foreign cultural policy shall be financed from the budget of the European Union. The other 50% shall be financed by the Member States. To this end, a distribution key shall be used that will be based on the willingness of the individual Member States to participate and on their capacity.

Regulation (EU) No. 1234/201_ of the European Parliament and of the Council on deepening cultural co-operation, exchange and development of Member States at European Union level of _____ 201_

Article 1



Article 2

Article 3

Article 4

Article 5

Article 6

Signed: President of the European Parliament and President of the Council

Commission – welcome speech

Dear Ministers,

dear Members of Parliament,

dear media representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to give a very warm welcome to all of you at the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels. I am very pleased that this event is so well attended: I see Foreign Ministers from all the Member States, and Members from almost all parliamentary groups in the European Parliament. I would also like to warmly welcome the representatives of the media.

We are undergoing times of big challenges which require similarly big and far-reaching decisions. In doing so, it is sometimes, and perhaps even increasingly useful to illuminate corners which are rarely taken into account. Topics which are hardly ever discussed out loud are often the ones with the greatest effect.

This brings me to the occasion of today's meeting: culture as Europe's wealth, culture as Europe's hope, culture as Europe's chance. This is how I would like to put it into words at this point.

Allow me to mention our newest proposals. I will not conceal from you that I am very proud to be able to briefly outline them here today!

We are increasingly concerned about the emergence of crises in many different policy areas of the European Union. Against this background, we have to ask ourselves some basic questions which lead us back to the beginnings, the first considerations that have brought us together here today. Whatever actually constitutes Europe? As European Union, what makes us what we are? Why do people all over the world see us first and foremost as Europeans, and only then as citizens of a particular Member State? Obviously, we all must have something in common that others can see, but we ourselves are often not aware of.

I think here of our culture, the European culture, what we can show and possibly also give to the world. This policy field is both simple and difficult. It is all the rage, everyone has some idea, but so far, unfortunately, we lack the determination and willingness to act together.

COM- MISSION

In our motto “unity in diversity”, we have put the emphasis on the latter word for way too long. It is much better, however, to focus on unity. And not only as an accent, but as a concept, as an idea, even as a plan.

I think we all agree that cutting budgetary corners should be avoided when it comes to culture. Nevertheless – our European Union is as manifold as it is different, and not everyone has the same resources to the same degree. This is exactly where we feel reminded of our duty, we as Europe, we as European Union, I personally as President of the European Commission.

What do we have in mind? Following up on the aforementioned image of Europe in the world, we recognize, however, that not all of our Member States want or can manifest themselves alike. Often, it is simply the size which is a hindrance, which so narrowly focuses on us as Europe that only a few are able to fill it with content. We, however, are interested in much more: the completeness and diversity of our culture!

Within the European cooperation in the field of cultural policy, we have been content in the last decades to look inward, to develop common programs in close cooperation that have an effect within our Union.

Now, we would like to encourage you to let your eyes wander further, beyond our European horizon. Into the world! Let us think together how we could become even better, more effective and more visible as Europe, as European culture.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do not think I exaggerate when I say that cultural activities in the world are one of the greatest future opportunities for the European Union.

The European Commission will therefore shortly present a draft of a regulation that, from the Commission’s viewpoint, is absolutely necessary.

Ladies and gentlemen, to sum up, I would like to get to the heart of the matter one more time:

There is no doubt that the European Union feels strongly committed to culture. I am convinced that you will face this challenge very responsibly. Therefore, I am sure that, together with the European Commission, you will find a solution which will take all interests into account.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you every success in your work!

GROUP PROFILE**COUNCIL**

The Council of the European Union (the Council) is an assembly of EU Member States representatives at the minister level. In their respective disciplinary composition, its members discuss and decide on the Commission's proposals for a legal act. The same thing happens in the European Parliament (EP). In this way, the Council and the EP are part of the ordinary legislative procedure. Both partners decide together, but represent different interests. The EP represents citizens directly. In the Council, the interests of the Member States come up against each other and are jointly contrasted with the interests of the EP. The Presidency of the Council alternates between the members. In the simulation game, a person is elected President. The session begins with a short round of introduction in which the members explain their position, but without putting forward any demands yet. There is usually a friendly and cooperative atmosphere in the Council. If possible, the Commission takes part in the sessions, where it has the right to speak. In this case, the Commission member sits next to the President. In the Council, decisions to amend drafts are generally adopted by qualified majority as part of the codecision procedure. A qualified majority is reached when 55% of the Member States agree and, simultaneously, represent 65% of the EU population. This must be recalculated at each vote.

The cultural policy is a rather new and challenging policy field of the EU. The Council meets in different subject constellations. In the event of a foreign policy relevance, cultural issues are usually discussed in the "Education, Culture and Youth Council" and the "General Affairs Council". Due to the fundamental importance, however, the so-called General Affairs Council meets in this case, who is responsible for basic, political key decisions. Its members are generally the Foreign Ministers, sometimes also the Ministers for Europe.

The interests of the Member States can be very different. To reach a specific goal, a request for an amendment is required. For such an amendment to be included in a draft, a qualified majority must be achieved in the Council. To get a majority, arrangements must be made with other Council members. This makes it possible to find compromises with regard to individual issues, but also to connect very different questions, so that you will receive support from members with a different underlying objective. In return, you promise your own support for other issues. The EP, however, will also wish to make amendments in a similar process. To make sure that specific goals are successfully reached, it might be a good idea to also talk to individual MEPs or entire parliamentary groups from the EP.

If you want to request an amendment to the legislative proposal, discuss it beforehand with enough members of the Council to achieve a majority. If necessary, suggest a session break for such a discussion. Request the amendment only if you are sure to achieve the majority, first by reading out the appropriate position in the draft, and then by reading out your own proposal. The President of the Council will have the vote soon afterwards.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Germany**

You are the Foreign Minister of Germany. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Berlin

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

German, regionally also Danish and Sorbian

POPULATION

80.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 35,400

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

1.9 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.7 %

In the Federal Republic of Germany, approx. 82 million inhabitants live on nearly 360,000 square kilometers. This makes Germany the largest Member State of the EU. The old Federal Republic of Germany was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s. After the reunification in 1990, Germany founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other Western European countries. In addition, Germany was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Due to its size and very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Germany is by far the biggest economic partner in the EU. In 2014, the gross domestic product amounted to 2,849 billion euro.

A united Europe that is capable of acting is considered an elementary German interest, cooperation with France as part of the “Franco-German engine” has first priority. You think that the Commission’s initiative comes just at the right time. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.

Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present.

Germany sees itself as an old culture which has been a dominant force in the history of the European continent. With West Berlin (1988), Weimar (1999) and Essen/Ruhr (2010) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”, Germany has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. However, it is also important to you that the German language is perceived on a par with the other major languages of Europe. In the past, Germany has been a little cautious in that respect, which is why today mainly English and French are used as working languages, even though German is the most used native language in the EU. Here, you definitely wish to see the course altered, not with a sledgehammer of course, but rather diplomatically and quietly.

The roots of German art and culture history date back to the time of the Celts, Teutons and Romans. Germany has brought forth numerous style- and epoch-shaping personalities. Until this day, German artists are among the protagonists of Western civilization. Over the centuries, German culture has defined itself primarily through the common language, because Germany had not existed as a nation state for quite some time.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project, however. You do not want to appear too dominant, because that would rather harm the common project. However, you make it clear that Germany has a lot of experience with foreign cultural activities, which you would gladly bring to the table. With 160 “Goethe Institutes” worldwide and over 90 of their liaison offices, Germany also has its own cultural institute infrastructure and plenty of experience with cultural activities abroad. Not to mention the “Institute for International and Cultural Relations” with its worldwide connections! To be honest, you regret the absence of the German organizational culture in many European partners.

You are not quite sure if you would go so far as to close the German cultural institutes when a European cultural institute is established. You think it is better to wait and see first. If the concept is good, you will be definitely ready to dip into your purse.

You feel especially connected with France. But you also like to bring yourself into play as a neutral mediator. The idea of the Commission must work, that is your major goal! Therefore, from your point of view, it would be best if the Commission got as much power as possible. This would scotch national egoism.



ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Estonia**

You are the Foreign Minister of Estonia. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Tallin

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Estonian

POPULATION

1.3 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 15,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

5.4 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

15.4 %

In the Republic of Estonia, approx. 1.3 million inhabitants live on over 45,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Estonia takes 25th place among the EU Member States. Until 1991, Estonia was part of the Soviet Union and has quickly joined the West together with the other Baltic republics, Latvia and Lithuania. Estonia joined the EU in 2004. Estonia sees itself as very pro-European and has adopted the euro in 2011 as one of the first countries of the great enlargement. Due to its small size with a relatively versatile economic structure, Estonia takes 26th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an estimated economic performance of 20 billion euro in 2014.

So far, Estonia has pursued a more project-oriented cultural policy abroad. There are some cultural institutes, the so-called “Eesti Instituut”, however, most activities take place in the context of bilateral agreements or action programs. In addition, Tallinn was “European Capital of Culture” in 2011. Until 2004, your cultural policy activities were entirely aimed at joining the EU as soon as possible. However, you would really appreciate it if Estonian culture was also finally promoted and its economic significance harnessed. The Estonian culture is strongly oriented towards Estonia’s neighbor Finland, since both countries have a strong relationship. It is largely aligned to the West and maintains numerous cooperations, particularly with German companies, Evangelical churches, and universities.

As a young Member State, you have strongly benefited economically and in terms of security from the European Union. Therefore, you perceive the centrifugal forces in Europe with great concern as well. Thus, the Commission’s proposal has come at exactly the right time for you. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world. Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. To a certain degree, cultural policy has always been synonymous with foreign policy.

The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy. In this context, Estonia could well imagine a mediating role between cultures of the East and the EU partners.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project. The other countries certainly have great ideas and good concepts that you will readily endorse.

However, you warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. You definitely want to participate in this new project. A small country like Estonia needs the EU to accomplish any international goals. Of course, it is also clear that Estonia can participate financially only to a small degree. The larger countries must make a greater contribution. Another possibility would be to finance everything from EU funds.



ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from France**

You are the Foreign Minister of France. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Paris

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

French

POPULATION

64.7 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 32,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.6 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.6 %

In the Republic of France, approx. 64.7 million inhabitants live on nearly 669,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, France takes 2nd place among the EU Member States. It was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s and founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other West European countries. In addition, France was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Until the early 1960s, the country had one of the largest colonial empires in history, which continues to have an effect on the population structure and the national identity. Due to its size and its very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, France is the third largest economic partner in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 2,060 billion euro in 2014.

France is basically pro-European. The national interest of the “Grand Nation”, however, is always paramount for French politicians. France’s significance as the most important European nation alongside Germany usually means that Paris stands shoulder to shoulder with Berlin and tends to give less weight to the interests of smaller Member States. From the viewpoint of Paris, an agreement against France is absolutely inadequate to the political and economic situation in the EU. The nationwide maintenance and preservation of France’s rich material cultural heritage is regarded as a task of national importance. This understanding is effectively brought into the public domain through measures organized or sponsored by the state, which contribute to the formation of a national cultural awareness. Examples are national heritage, music or cinema days that are firmly anchored in the annual cultural calendar and are highly popular among the French.

The European integration process at the beginning of the 21st century is considered indispensable for the modernization of France and for a joint independence at the international level. It is widely accepted that the greatness of the French nation can only be maintained in a united and independent Europe that is built according to the model of a federation of nation states and respects the diversity of its individual members.



From your point of view, the EU faces major challenges, such as the financial crisis, global warming, unemployment, migration and demographic trends, the solution of which will be neither quick nor easy. However, every crisis is also an opportunity, as the history of European unification has shown! Therefore, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that this idea can bring Europe closer together again.

However, at the same time, everyone has to realize that France must play a very significant role, appropriate to its size and importance. France has an old culture which has been a dominant force in the history of the European continent. Therefore, it is quite obvious to you that France must be given a strong voice with regard to the content-related design of the concept. This includes of course the French language which is especially protected by law in France, and whose cultivation is generously supported by the State. You are very sensitive that the French language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe. With regard to content, you are rather conservative. You are skeptical towards too many innovations. Poetry slams, light installations... in your opinion, much of this has nothing to do with the high culture that you stand for. With 94 "Instituts Français" worldwide, France also has its own cultural institute infrastructure and extensive experience with cultural activities abroad. With Paris (1989), Avignon (1999), Lille (2004) and Marseille (2013) as "European Cities (Capitals) of Culture", France has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. This experience must be used of course. To close your own cultural institutes, however, is out of the question! But if the European concept is good, you will be definitely ready to dip into your purse. As Grand Nation, France should not splash out in this respect.

In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present. Cultural policy has always been primarily synonymous with foreign policy. This has always been the French approach. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture.

You owe it to all French people that France plays a most important role in the new project. You are strongly committed to that goal. In particular, stand shoulder to shoulder with the representatives from Germany. If France and Germany agree and go ahead, it can carry the whole of Europe forward, as history has shown many times.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Italy**

You are the Foreign Minister of Italy. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Rome

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Italian, regionally also German, French, Ladin and Slovenian

POPULATION

60.3 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 26,500

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

1.4 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

8.0 %

In the Republic of Italy, approx. 60.3 million inhabitants live on about 300,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Italy takes 4th place among the EU Member States. The country was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s and founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other West European countries. In addition, Italy was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Due to its size and its very versatile economic structure with a small-scale industry, Italy takes 4th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 1,597 billion euro in 2014.

All Italian governments and the majority of the population have always been very pro-European. If there are suitable EU solutions for a problem, they usually do not fall through because of Italy. Nevertheless, given its economic weight, state problems and geographical location, Italy can surely be a tough negotiator when protecting its own interests.

Within the EU, Italy belongs together with Greece to the undisputed cradle of European culture. Innumerable testimonies to the history of humanity can be found in Rome and throughout the country. At the same time, Italy has had a significant influence on the development of the European continent up to the modern era. Italy played an important role as the center of the Roman Empire, the seat of the papacy and the cradle of the Renaissance, and had become the breeding ground of European art, culture and research. Italy has approximately 100,000 monuments of any type (museums, castles, statues, churches, galleries, villas, fountains, historic houses and archaeological finds). It is the country with the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites worldwide – 51 in total! The Italian language is spoken all over the world, also by large communities of former emigrants.



A large fragmentation also denotes their cultural policy activities. In addition to archaeological and touristic aspects, the promotion of the Italian language is also a big concern for you. Around 90 Italian cultural institutes (Italian: Istituti Italiani) worldwide work on this task. In addition, there exists a variety of programs of other public authorities (such as cities and regions), usually without a coordinated cooperation. A concentration of efforts on a few objectives or organizations has barely taken place and is not regarded as beneficial, either.

From your point of view, the EU faces major challenges, such as the financial crisis, global warming, unemployment, migration and demographic trends, the solution of which will be neither quick nor easy. However, every crisis is also an opportunity, as the history of European unification has shown! Therefore, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that this idea can bring Europe closer together again.

However, at the same time, everyone has to realize that Italy must play a significant role, appropriate to its size and importance. Italy has a thousand years old culture which has been a dominant force in the history of the European continent. With Genua (1986), Bologna (1999) and again Genua (2004) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”, Italy has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. Therefore, it is quite obvious to you that Italy must be given a strong voice with regard to the content-related design of the concept. Of course, this also includes the Italian language. You are very sensitive that the Italian language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe. Otherwise, you are quite open to innovations, as long as they are not too wild. You think that being in a position to look back at such an old culture, you can also afford a relaxed “misstep” every once in a while. You miss this serenity in many of your colleagues, particularly from countries with cultures that are not as old.

The experience of Italy with cultural activities must of course be used. You are not quite sure if you would go so far as to close the Italian cultural institutes when a European cultural institute is established. You think it is better to wait and see first. If the concept is good, you will be definitely ready to dip into your purse. Of course, it would be best to dip into the purse of the EU... In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present.

You owe it to your voters that Italy plays a most important role in the new project. You are strongly committed to that goal. Try to build up alliances in particular with the representatives of other major EU States.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Lithuania**

You are the Foreign Minister of Lithuania. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Vilnius

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Lithuanian

POPULATION

3.2 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 12,400

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.3 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

15.7 %

In the Republic of Lithuania, 3.2 million inhabitants live on about 65,000 square kilometers, therefore Lithuania takes 22nd place in the European Union. Until 1991, Lithuania was part of the Soviet Union and has quickly joined the West together with the other Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia. Lithuania joined the EU in 2004. Lithuania sees itself as very pro-European and has adopted the euro on January 1, 2015. Due to its small size, Lithuania takes 23th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an estimated economic performance of 39 billion euro in 2014.

Lithuania has no strong cultural policy abroad, it rather does some project work in specifically selected locations. It has no own cultural institutes. If at all, activities take place in the context of bilateral agreements or action programs. In addition, Vilnius was “European Capital of Culture” in 2009. Until 2004, your cultural policy activities were entirely aimed at joining the EU as soon as possible. You have nothing against Lithuanian culture finally being promoted and its economic significance harnessed, even if this concept is still new for you.

Lithuania is shaped by many different cultural influences. Firstly, there is the long independence and maintaining a non-Christian state religion, the long shared history with Poland, relations with the Hanseatic League and the Baltic region, belonging to the Russian Tsarist Empire. That is the origin of the Orthodox churches that cannot be overlooked in big cities. In the west of the country, strong German, Danish and Swedish influences are in evidence, e.g. brick Gothic and timbered houses. In the east, however, particularly in Vilnius, Polish cultural elements are often present. Despite its small size, Lithuania hosts no less than three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the baroque old town of Vilnius, the dunes on the Curonian Spit peninsula, and the archaeological site in Kernavė. This makes many Lithuanians very proud.

As a young Member State, you have strongly benefited economically and in terms of security from the European Union. Therefore, you perceive the centrifugal forces in Europe with great concern as well. Thus, the Commission’s proposal has come at exactly the right time for you. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world. Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. To a certain degree, cultural policy has always been synonymous with foreign policy.

The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy. In this context, Lithuania could well imagine a mediating role between cultures of the East and the EU partners.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project. The other countries certainly have great ideas and good concepts that you will readily endorse.

However, you warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. You definitely want to participate in this new project. A small country like Lithuania needs the EU to accomplish any international goals. Of course, it is also clear that Lithuania can participate financially only to a small degree. The larger countries must make a greater contribution. Another possibility would be to finance everything from EU funds.



ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from the Netherlands**

You are the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Amsterdam

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Dutch, regionally also Frisian

POPULATION

16.6 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 39,300

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

3.4 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

11.8 %

In the Kingdom of the Netherlands, approx. 16.6 million inhabitants live on over 41,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, the Netherlands take 8th place among the EU Member States. The Netherlands were a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s. When the East-West divide of the continent came to an end, the Netherlands founded the European Union along with eleven other Western European countries. The Netherlands are a unitary state with provinces who partly have their own culture-based laws. Due to their size and their very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, the Netherlands take 6th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 652 billion euro in 2014.

As an economically successful country in the heart of Europe, you perceive yourself both economically and culturally as a cosmopolitan driving force of European integration. You too observe the development of the continent with some concern and think that it could use a fresh impetus, so that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. If the discussion is objective, all should become aware of the idea's potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.

You think that it is always important to consider a deepening of the European unification. Especially in these times, when the idea of European cooperation appears to be losing popularity. Particularly the Netherlands have always benefited from European unification in the center of Europe, especially in economic terms.

However, you do not want Brussels to get more and more power. You think that in recent years, many things have gone wrong in this respect. In many areas, you would prefer to turn back the clock, but at least it must be prevented that the Dutch can decide even less for themselves.

You think that the Netherlands have much to offer. You have always enjoyed being at the forefront of cultural innovations, such as poetry slams and light installations, and therefore have a lot of experience in that field. You cannot understand that others consider that a waste of money. It is obvious that culture needs to be constantly renewed unless it is to solidify into a ritual. This is where you draw a clear line, however: above all, it is the promising cultural projects that should be supported. You also explicitly say this in an economic sense. Culture must also be profitable, ideally even pay for itself. You would like the Commission's idea to mainly bring economic success. This is what your voters expect from politicians. Politics should provide a framework in which people can achieve as many profits as possible for the good of all. If this is ensured, the Commission's idea may by all means cost some money.

Unlike many large and medium-sized countries, you do not have your own cultural institute infrastructure. You are especially proud of the fact that Amsterdam was "European City (Capital) of Culture" already in 1987, followed by Rotterdam in 2001.



Both with regard to culture and elsewhere, the following is important for you: You do not want to let others make decisions for you only because they have more experience. What all Dutch are proud of to this day is that many world-famous painters were Dutch: Hieronymus Bosch, Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Vincent van Gogh and Piet Mondrian, to name just a few. During the so-called “Golden Age” in the 17th century, about 700 painters worked in the Netherlands who finished around 70,000 paintings each year. Such a massive “painting output” has remained without precedent in the entire history of art.

You have always associated cultural policy with foreign and trade policy. The Netherlands have a long colonial history as well, e.g. Suriname would gain its independence from the Netherlands only in 1975. Since the 17th century, the small country of the Netherlands certainly have had global influence, and therefore have also wanted to be a global player. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area.

This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We should not get lost in details, however. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east and south of the continent.

One thing is clear to you: You reject all proposals leading to a situation where even more decisions are taken in Brussels and not in The Hague! In addition, the Netherlands must have codecision powers everywhere on an equal footing! The EU does not need a second “British Council” or “Goethe Institute”, we need to think from scratch. Try to team up with Germany, your great neighbor, and of course with Belgium to which you feel particularly close culturally let alone due to the Flemish part of the population.



CAPITAL

Vienna

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

German, regionally also Croatian, Slovenian and Hungarian

POPULATION

8.4 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 38,500

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

1.9 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.8 %**ROLE PROFILE****Foreign Minister from Austria**

You are the Foreign Minister of Austria. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

In the Republic of Austria, approx. 8.4 million inhabitants live on nearly 84,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Austria takes 15th place among the EU Member States. When the East-West confrontation was over in 1990, Austria joined the EU in 1995 together with two other countries. In addition, Austria was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. This federation has nine federal states that enact laws by means of their own parliaments and are involved in the legislation of the Republic through the Federal Council. Due to its very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Austria is approximately the tenth largest economic partner in the EU, with a gross domestic product of around 323 billion euro in 2014.

Despite the medium size of the country, Austria's cultural policy activities abroad are varied and extensive. Due to Austria's historical rootedness as a central creative force in rearranging the European continent from the viewpoint of world history, it has close relations with a variety of countries and cultures. The country's foreign cultural polity institutes known as "Austrian cultural forums" are directly subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Unlike many other cultural institutes, they do not offer language courses in this context, since Austria has a separate institute network for that purpose. Particularly close relations exist with East-Central Europe and the Balkans. Here, the cultural presence of Austria also corresponds with a high external and economic significance for both sides.

For centuries, Austria, and especially Vienna had been a cultural hub as capitals of the Habsburg Monarchy. As a result of this bridging function, Austria has culturally a lot in common with its Central European neighboring countries. Multilingualism and the confluence of cultures of the multi-ethnic state of Austria-Hungary constitute a starting point of Austrian cultural activities and its cultural self-placement.

As a Europe-friendly partner, you observe with regard to the Commission's proposal that the continent could use a fresh impetus, so that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. If the discussion is objective, all should become aware of the idea's potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.

Therefore, you also would want the Commission's initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details.

Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east of the continent, especially in close proximity to Austria and the former Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

In terms of content, despite your rich history, you perceive yourself mainly as innovative. Therefore, the new project must be particularly creative, focusing on Europe's future and not the past. With Graz (2003) and Linz (2009) as "European Cities (Capitals) of Culture", Austria has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture.

From a strategic viewpoint, you often discuss your decisions with your big neighbor Germany, with which you maintain a very close exchange due to the common language and interwoven history, at the same time stressing your autonomy, however. On the other hand, you are a relatively small country that repeatedly warns against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. You definitely want to participate in this new project. A small country like Austria needs the EU to accomplish any international goals.



ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Poland**

You are the Foreign Minister of Poland. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Warsaw

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Polish

POPULATION

38.2 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 10,700

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.5 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

12.5 %

In the Republic of Poland, approx. 38.2 million inhabitants live on nearly 313,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Poland takes 6th place among the EU Member States. In the 1980s, the Polish people had slowly and consistently shaken off the socialist system in their country, making a significant contribution to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. When the East-West divide of the continent came to an end, Poland was consistently encouraged and supported by its western neighbors, and was able to develop a stable democracy. In 2004, it was the largest country of the round of enlargement and is considered by many Central and East-Central European Member States as spokesman. Poland has not yet adopted the euro. Due to its size and its quite versatile economic structure with a young industry in addition to old coal and steel plants, Poland takes 8th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 408 billion euro in 2014.

For Poland, the time after the fall of the iron curtain was a time of radical change, often for the better, not only economically, but also culturally. Due to your political and economic development, and the importance that you have due to your size, it is imperative that you work on a positive image of Poland in the world. Often, a debate on that issue is still dominated by a history in which the Polish national identity could only function in a limited manner, in a vice between the West and the East. Those times are thankfully over, and now it is time to show the world what you have to offer. Meanwhile, you maintain 24 cultural institutes (Polish: "Instytut Polski") whose purpose is to make the Polish culture and Polish artists known. You certainly consider this as part of your foreign policy. With Cracow (2000) and Wrocław (2009) as "European Cities (Capitals) of Culture", Poland has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. The Polish culture is very versatile and results from the country's turbulent history: in the Middle Ages and in modern times, Poland was a meeting place for different cultures and religions that all had and still have their influence on the Polish cultural heritage. Also today, Poland has a diversified cultural scene which, despite all globalization tendencies, has been able to preserve its own identity that many Poles appreciate.

As a country that so quickly has benefited so much from the integration with the European Union like hardly any other country, you basically perceive yourself as a Europe-friendly player. Recently, however, you too have become careful to some degree with regard to the further development of European integration. Should we really start with culture? In this field, you certainly have enough own tasks to take care of. But perhaps such a project could help with them as well? If you lead an objective discussion, it could be possible to find a result with potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world. In the end, this will help Poland as well.

At the same time, everyone has to realize that Poland must play a very significant role, appropriate to its size and importance. Poland has an old culture which has been a dominant force in the history of the European continent. Therefore, it is quite obvious to you that Poland must be given a strong voice with regard to the content-related design of the concept. Of course, this also includes the Polish language. You are very sensitive that Polish, even if it is one of the most difficult languages to learn, is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe.

You also would want the Commission's initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Especially as spokesperson of the successor countries to the Soviet Union, you think therefore that there should be a strong focus on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east of the EU.

In particular, try to team up with the other Višegrad Group countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary) with which you were often able to profitably work together.



ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Romania**

You are the Foreign Minister of Romania. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Bucharest

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Rumänisch

POPULATION

21.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 7,500

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.2 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.8 %

With an area of 238,391 square kilometers, Romania is the ninth largest country of the European Union. With its 21.5 million inhabitants, the country even takes seventh place in the Union. The old people's Republic of Romania lasted until 1989 and was excluded from the democratic unification of Western Europe. After the first free elections in 1990, the Republic of Romania had sought to accede to the European Union which it finally joined together with Bulgaria on January 1, 2007. Romania has not yet adopted the euro. Despite its size, the economic structure of the country is relatively weak. With a gross domestic product of approx. 161 billion euro in 2015, it takes 16th place among the economic partners in the EU.

From the point of view of Romania, the EU faces major challenges, such as the financial crisis, global warming, unemployment, migration and demographic trends, the solution of which will be neither quick nor easy. However, every crisis is also an opportunity! Therefore, you welcome the Commission proposal.

Above all, Romania currently wants to work on a positive image in the world, because it is currently sold under value in its opinion. The membership in the EU represents a unique historical opportunity. You think that the Commission's idea can bring Europe closer together again. And in your opinion, Romania should play a key role in this project. Foreign policy is all good and well, but for you, cultural policy is more than that. For instance, also an economic factor!



With the “Instutul Cultural Roman”, you are active in 19 cities worldwide, thus you have your own cultural institute infrastructure. In addition, Sibiu was “European City (Capital) of Culture” in 2007. You have experiences that you would like to contribute. You would like to focus on bringing European and Romanian artists to market. If it sells well, it can surely be a bit more modern as well. Others think that poetry slams and light installations are a waste of money, but if that is what people want – why not? Both in its various historical manifestations and in its current structure, the culture of Romania is characterized by a kind of pluralism that is unique in Europe. The special characteristic of Romanian culture is the ability to take up a variety of traditional and modern influences, and to connect them with each other by means of a creative synthesis. The country’s location at the border between the Western World and the East, i.e. between the Occident and the Orient, plays a significant role.

Despite its size, as an EU country that unfortunately still has a less powerful economy, Romania can of course make financial contributions only to a lesser degree. Here, the larger Member States are called upon, or better yet the EU budget. Then no country will be able to claim too much influence for itself according to the motto “Who pays the piper, calls the tune”.

In your view, Romania could play an active role in the realization of the political vision for the Western Balkans and of the “Eastern partnership”, with an emphasis on the Black Sea region. The Commission’s initiative fits perfectly in this context! If we make foreign policy, Romania should also benefit from it. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east and south of the continent.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Sweden**

You are the Foreign Minister of Sweden. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Stockholm

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Swedish, regionally also Finnish, Mienkäli and Sami

POPULATION

9.3 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 44,400

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.0 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

12.4 %

In the Kingdom of Sweden, approx. 9.3 million inhabitants live on nearly 450,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Sweden takes 14th place among the EU Member States. When the East-West divide of the continent came to an end after 1990, Sweden joined the EU together with Finland and Austria in 1995, maintaining its traditional neutrality. Due to its very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Sweden, despite its small size, takes 7th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an estimated economic performance of 412 billion euro in 2014.

Sweden sees itself as one of the most Europhile nations ever. The horrors of Europe's past can only be overcome together, and the great opportunities of European unification from the ecological, social and cultural viewpoint should really be obvious to anyone. This intangible component of European integration is particularly important to you, especially if your colleagues sometimes only speak of the positive effects on economic performance.

Therefore, you wholeheartedly welcome the Commission proposal. Finally, a fresh breeze that breathes new life into the European project and shows the entire world what Europe has to offer. You have always associated cultural policy with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area.

This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. You think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present.

You have always stressed the importance of international exchange. Due to the small size of your country, you are always pleased with European initiatives that you can join. Your own cultural institutes (Swedish: Svenska Institutet) outside of Sweden are only in Denmark and France. With Stockholm (1998) and Umeå (2014) as "European Cities (Capitals) of Culture", Sweden has already some experience in the presentation of its culture, however. In addition, independently of the existence of cultural institutes, you are very successful in conveying a versatile and varied picture of your culture, particularly literature, your society and nature.



Sweden is considered the nation of pop music in Europe, if not worldwide. Sweden puts particular emphasis on supporting the musical abilities of children very early in their education. The music market has a special significance for Sweden also from the economic viewpoint.

If it is up to you, the ideas can also be crazy, you would also like to anchor the ecological, social and economic sustainability, principles of equal treatment of the sexes and life forms, as well as gender aspects more strongly, also with regard to art and culture. The other representatives also certainly have great ideas and good concepts, however, that you will readily endorse. It is important to you that the projects have a worldwide impact. The EU does not need to humble itself: Given the will, great things can be done.

As a culturally influential nation with a language that has a small family of speakers, you are particularly aware of the challenges that must be faced by even smaller countries. Because you show a special understanding for that, you could well imagine to play some kind of mediating role. Try to team up with the other Baltic Sea States as well. You have often been able to work together well with them on many occasions.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Slovakia**

You are the Foreign Minister of Slovakia. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Bratislava

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Slovak

POPULATION

5.4 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 13,900

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

3.1 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

12.2 %

In the Slovak Republic, approx. 5.4 million inhabitants live on approx. 49,000 square kilometers. With its population size, Slovakia takes 23rd place in the EU. When the East-West divide of the continent came to an end, Slovakia joined the European Union along with many other former Eastern bloc countries in 2004. Due to its small size, Slovakia takes 20th place among the European partners, with a GDP of 75 billion euro in 2014.

Together with its northwestern neighbor Czechia, Slovakia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy since the 11th century until 1918, therefore it has a lot in common with its neighboring countries also culturally. Similar to its neighbors, the time after the world wars was shaped by the Socialist dictatorship. Since the peaceful split of Slovakia from the Czechoslovak Federation in 1993, the specifically Slovak elements in culture and the independence of the Slovak language are particularly highlighted. For Slovakia, the membership in the European Union is above all linked to great economic hopes which so far have not all been fulfilled yet. Therefore, in recent years, an increasingly skeptical mood has spread in the population under the impression of some critical developments concerning the future direction of the EU project.

Thus, you treat the Commission's initiative with some caution. Of course, you agree with the findings: some things get out of hand at the moment. However, you question if cultural policy is the right starting point. For you, cultural issues are always linked to ethnic tensions. A large Hungarian minority lives in your country that finds its voice also politically. Thus, you face the same challenge as some of your neighbors: to create ethnic and cultural harmony from the demarcations that the 21st century has brought forth. You still afford a cultural foreign policy, however: 8 cultural institutes represent your country in Europe. The only cultural institute outside the EU is located in Moscow.



This is where you see a possible starting point for a European project, however. If a majority for such a European House can be found, the focus should clearly be on foreign-policy interests, i.e. first and foremost on the dialog with the Eastern partners in the neighborhood policy. In this context, you could also well imagine a mediating role. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture.

With regard to the concrete design of the project, you wait for the proposals of others. So far, a city in Slovakia was designated as “European City (Capital) of Culture” only once, namely Košice (2013). You would say that overall you have little experience with the international presentation of your culture, therefore you also rely on the concepts of others. The main thing is that you do not have to commit yourself too much. Of course, it is also clear that Slovakia can hardly participate financially. The larger countries must make a greater contribution. Another possibility would be to finance everything from EU funds.

Above all, however, you warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. After all, one thing is quite clear to you: a small country like Slovakia needs the EU to accomplish any international goals. In particular, try to team up with the other Visegrad Group countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary) with which you were often able to profitably work together. You feel particularly connected to the Czech Republic also culturally as a result of your common history.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Slovenia**

You are the Foreign Minister of Slovenia. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Ljubljana

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Slovenian, regionally also Italian and Hungarian

POPULATION

2 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 18,100

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

3.0 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

10.9 %

In the Republic of Slovenia, approx. 2 million inhabitants live on over 20,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Slovenia takes 24th place among the EU Member States. When the East-West divide came to an end, Slovenia broke away from the state community of Yugoslavia and became an independent country. This small country successfully managed to join the EU in 2004, and already in 2007 Slovenia introduced the euro as its currency as the first of the accession countries. Despite its small size, with an estimated economic performance of 36 billion euro in 2014, Slovenia takes 24th place among the economic partners in the EU. Slovenia sees itself as a very pro-European. Already in times of Yugoslavia, the interest of the Slovenian population is strongly focused on Italy, Austria and Germany.

For a long time, Slovenia had been part of Austria-Hungary, therefore it has culturally a lot in common with its neighboring countries as well. This also applies to the countries of former Yugoslavia, with whom Slovenia also has a long shared history. As a region that is in an ongoing cultural exchange, Slovenia is also a special cultural melting pot. In their opinion, this connects the Slovenes to the EU: Setting small examples, which surely can benefit others, and is a good message that the EU can send out. However, you do not have your own experience with that. Until recently, your cultural policy activities were entirely aimed at joining the EU as soon as possible. Thus, you operate only one cultural institute worldwide – the “Slovenian Culture and Information Center (SKICA)” in Vienna. However, you would really appreciate it if Slovenian culture was (also) finally promoted and its economic significance harnessed.

As a Europe-friendly partner, you observe also for reasons of principle with regard to the Commission’s proposal that the continent could use a fresh impetus, so that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. If the discussion is objective, all should become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.



Therefore, you also would want the Commission's initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy. In this context, Slovenia could well imagine a mediating role between Slavonic cultures of the East and the EU partners.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project. Due to its small size, Slovenia has virtually no own cultural infrastructure abroad and has only sporadically funded projects abroad in the past. So far, a city in Slovenia was designated as "European Capital of Culture" only once, namely Maribor (2012). You would say that overall you have little experience with the international presentation of your culture, therefore you also rely on the concepts of others. The other countries certainly have great ideas and good concepts that you will readily endorse.

However, you warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. You definitely want to participate in this new project. Such a small country as Slovenia needs the EU to accomplish any international goals. Of course, it is also clear that Slovenia can hardly participate financially. The larger countries must make a greater contribution. Another possibility would be to finance everything from EU funds.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Spain**

You are the Foreign Minister of Spain. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Madrid

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Spanish, regionally also Aragonese, Aranese, Asturian, Basque, Galician and Catalan

POPULATION

46 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 22,400

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.6 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.1 %

In the Kingdom of Spain, approx. 46 million inhabitants live on over 504,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Spain takes 5th place among the EU Member States. The country has been a member of the European Communities already since 1986. After the death of military dictator General Franco in 1975, Spain quickly succeeded in establishing and consolidating democracy. When the East-West divide of Europe came to an end, Spain founded the European Union along with eleven other Western European countries in 1993. Due to its size and its very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Spain takes 5th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 1,030 billion euro in 2014. Since 2008, the country has suffered greatly under the world economic crisis, however, which resulted in a high unemployment rate, especially among young people, the collapse of the construction industry and banks in danger of insolvency. As a result of the bank bailout, the state is heavily indebted.

Spain has an old culture which has been a dominant force in the history of the European continent and the entire world order, for instance during the discovery and settlement of America, to give but one small example. Of course, a part of this culture is also the Spanish language. You are very sensitive that the Spanish language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe. It is also one of the reasons that Spain maintains close cultural relations with Spanish-speaking countries. Spain has an extensive cultural institute infrastructure and a lot of experience with cultural activities abroad. In addition to 65 language centers, the so-called Cervantes Institutes, a separate institute called “Acción Cultural Española (AC/E)” takes care of the dissemination of Spanish culture.



This experience must be used of course. You also have some experience with the presentation of your own culture. After all, Madrid (1992), Santiago de Compostela (2000), Salamanca (2002) and San Sebastián (2016) were “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”. The other representatives also certainly have great ideas and good concepts that you will readily endorse. However, at the same time, everyone has to realize that Spain must play a significant role, appropriate to its size and importance.

You wholeheartedly welcome the Commission proposal. Finally, a fresh breeze that breathes new life into the European project and shows the entire world what Europe has to offer. You have always associated cultural policy with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture.

Conversely, this also means, however, that the EU must take on the financial responsibility. This becomes even more important as the Spanish contribution cannot be overly generous due to the current economic difficulties. Try to build up alliances in particular with the representatives of other major EU States. However, the EU does not need a second “British Council” or “Goethe Institute”, we need to think from scratch and take all previous experience into account.

ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from the United Kingdom**

You are Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

London

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English, regionally also Cornish, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Scots, Ulster Scots and Welsh

POPULATION

62 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 34,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

1.7 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

12.0 %

In the United Kingdom (UK), approx. 62 million inhabitants live on nearly 245,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Great Britain, as the UK is often called, takes 3rd place among the EU Member States. The country joined the European Community already in 1973. From the very beginning, both the population and the two major parties, Labour Party and Conservatives, had massive reservations about the membership. It is typically British, however, to seek pragmatic solutions in the matter. Since from the perspective of most Brits and their politicians the benefits of membership predominated, Great Britain also supported the establishment of the European Union when the East-West divide of the continent came to an end. However, it neither fully participates in the common security policy nor in the social policy. In addition, the United Kingdom has not introduced the euro and, together with Ireland, is not a Schengen State, either. However, it is attached to this community that eliminated physical frontiers by means of a separate agreement. Due to its size and very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Great Britain is the second largest economic partner in the EU.

Alone due to its unrivaled colonial history, Great Britain sees itself as a cultural world power, with no country on the mainland in the position to beat it. Even today, countries that are members of the Commonwealth of Nations have a total of 2.3 billion inhabitants, which is equivalent to almost one third of the world population. With the BBC, the largest and, according to opinion polls, the most trusted broadcaster in the world, and with a major influence on global pop culture, the significance of the cultural sector in terms of foreign and economic policy has been promoted early on. The status of English as a world language is of course constitutive for that. The British Council alone is represented with more than 100 offices worldwide.

The United Kingdom sees the meaning of European integration first and foremost in the economic field, but has looked skeptically at further political integration and the resulting handing over of state sovereignty to supranational EU institutions. Although EU policy has become more important for Great Britain, the close alliance with the US is just as important. Under previous governments, gradual steps were taken to expand Britain's influence as a leading and respected partner in the EU. Recently, however, the pros and cons of membership are once again subject of controversial debate. A withdrawal from the EU cannot be ruled out anymore.

You assess the Commission's idea quite cautiously. For you, European unification is not a romantic end in itself, as it is often perceived on the mainland in your opinion. You see no shortage of cultural institutes. Anyway, no alternative could be as economically viable as your own structure, where the cultural activities are financed to around 80% from the revenues from language courses. Instead, it will cost money, and here you become extremely cautious. After all, your voters expect from you that there will be some benefits for your country. If a proposal is to be adopted, it must be clear that Great Britain can also gain some economic advantage from it. On the other hand, it is also important to you that Britain will have as much influence as possible on all decisions. In any case, you could not accept it if decisions are made in Brussels against Britain.

You are extremely reluctant to let anyone, especially any European institutions, meddle with your foreign policy. You have your own goals and the resources to achieve them. In any case, the European External Action Service (EEAS) has more than enough powers already. It does not need to get involved in cultural policy, too.

In any case, regarding all new ideas and concepts, Britain's experience on the international stage must be considered. Great Britain has an ancient culture that had a defining force in the history of the world. With Glasgow (1986) and Liverpool (2008) as "European Cities (Capitals) of Culture", Britain has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. In addition, you are very sensitive that the English language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe. Hardly anyone will question that, however!

As regard content, you are quite open to innovations, sometimes it even can get a bit wild. After all, eccentricity and self-irony are also a sympathetic trademark which has always worked very successfully for you, and for which you have always been very much appreciated abroad. However, traditions must still be cared for and one must not lose sight of them. You miss this serenity in many of your colleagues, particularly from countries with a younger culture and possibly unresolved identity conflicts. The experience with your own cultural infrastructure must of course be used. To close the British Council in favor of a European cultural institute, however, is out of the question. Where would we end up if that happens? Another thing is quite clear to you: The focus of European cultural policy must be global. It is better to leave an idea behind than play pretty-pretty stuff. This is how Great Britain has always handled things.

When it comes to money, the EU is called for above all, the idea comes from the Commission after all.



ROLE PROFILE**Foreign Minister from Cyprus**

You are the Foreign Minister of Cyprus. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Nicosia

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Greek and Turkish

POPULATION

0.8 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 20,500

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.2 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

15.7 %

The Republic of Cyprus is the international representation of the island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean. The northern, largely Turkish-speaking part of the island, however, is claimed by the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, which is recognized as a sovereign state only by Turkey. The entire island under the name “Republic of Cyprus” has been part of the EU since 5/1/2004, EU law is only applied in the southern, largely Greek-speaking part, however. In 1960, the island gained independence from Great Britain. For years, both parts of the island that has been divided since 1974 have attempted a reunion. So far, however, all attempts have failed. On the island, approx. 0.8 million inhabitants live on over 9,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Cyprus takes 26th place among the EU Member States. Besides Malta, it is the only island republic among the Member States of the European Union. The Republic of Cyprus sees itself as pro-European. There are still some relics from the British colonial era, and English is frequently used as business language; another one is left-hand traffic. Cyprus has adopted the euro in 2008 as one of the first countries of the great enlargement. Cyprus is a small country that looks back with pride on a rich history and culture. Geographically, Cyprus is located in Asia. However, it played a significant role in the European cultural history already in ancient times, and has since counted politically to Europe. Besides archaeological aspects, however, its cultural policy is largely shaped by a close relationship with Greece, a close ally. There, you also maintain your own cultural center (the only one apart from those in London and Berlin) which is operated by the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Overall, your cultural policy is very closely related to foreign policy, so that your embassies are often involved in cultural policy activities. If conditions are suitable, you are ready to promote projects of Cypriot artists worldwide.

As a Europe-friendly partner, you observe with regard to the Commission’s proposal that the continent could use a fresh impetus, so that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. If the discussion is objective, all should become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.

Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. To a certain degree, cultural policy has always been synonymous with foreign policy. You have always associated cultural policy with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose.

It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. You also think that we must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the south of the continent, especially in North Africa, in the immediate proximity to Cyprus.

Due to its small size, Cyprus has a very modest cultural infrastructure abroad and has only sporadically funded projects abroad in the past. Unlike most other Member States, there has never been a European Capital of Culture in your country. The other countries certainly have great ideas and good concepts that you will readily endorse.

You warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. You feel especially connected with Greece due to a common history, the language, and its geographical proximity. You definitely want to participate in this new project.

A small country like Cyprus needs the EU to accomplish any international goals. Of course, it is also clear that Cyprus can hardly participate financially. The larger countries must make a greater contribution. Another possibility would be to finance everything from EU funds.

You feel particularly connected with Greece, also culturally. Therefore, try to team up with its representative. You can hardly imagine to act against the Greek position.



GROUP PROFILE**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

The European Parliament (EP) is an assembly of 751 Members directly elected by the 505 million citizens of the EU. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) discuss the Commission's proposals for a legal act in the respective select committees. Sometimes the select committees also decide on the Commission's proposals, as is the case in this simulation game. To this end, however, MEPs usually meet for a plenary session. In parallel, the Council of the European Union (Council), where the governments of the Member States are represented by their respective departmental ministers, discusses and decides on the proposals. Although both partners decide together in this way, they represent different interests. The EP represents citizens directly. In the Council, the interests of the Member States come up against each other and are jointly contrasted with the interests of the EP. The Presidency of the Council alternates between the members. In the simulation game, a person is elected President. The Parliament elects its President among its Members.

The session begins with a short round of introduction in which the Members shortly present their position in their respective parliamentary groups, but without putting forward any demands yet. The parliamentary groups in the Parliament can hold their own sessions after requesting a pause in the committee meetings. There is usually a friendly and cooperative atmosphere in the parliamentary groups. The parliamentary groups, on the other hand, also openly argue between each other. However, to find a majority, it is particularly important that the major parliamentary groups find a compromise. Smaller parliamentary groups can get a majority for their proposals in the Parliament only through constant consultations with each other. If possible, the Commission takes part in the sessions, where it has the right to speak. In this case, the Commission member sits next to the President. In the Parliament, decisions to amend drafts are generally adopted by a simple majority (at least 50 percent plus one vote).

Cultural policy is both a rather new and challenging policy field of the EU. The interests of the Member States and their citizens can be sometimes very different. To reach a specific goal, a request to amend the Commission proposal is required. For an amendment to be included in the draft, a majority must be achieved in the EP. It is therefore useful to make arrangements with other Members of the EP to achieve such a majority.

These agreements may be compromises, where you agree on a consensus on specific issues. However, it is also possible to merge very different questions, so that an MEP supports something, even though it is not their own goal, but in return finds the necessary support from other MEPs for their own goals. It is always important to act as a parliamentary group and initially prepare agreements with others in this circle. Apart from the EP, however, the Council will also wish to make amendments in a similar process. To make sure that specific goals are successfully reached, it might be a good idea to also talk to the members of the Council.

If you want to request an amendment to the legislative proposal, discuss it beforehand with enough Members of the Parliament to achieve a majority. If necessary, suggest a session break for such a discussion. Request the amendment only if you are sure to achieve the majority, first by reading out the appropriate position in the draft, and then by reading out your own proposal. The President of the Parliament will have the vote soon afterwards.

GROUP PROFILE

EP – “European People’s Party (EPP)” Group



The EPP Group is one of the two largest groups in the European Parliament. Its member parties come from the center-right spectrum of European politics. This means that apart from the traditional Christian Democratic parties, your parliamentary group also consists of conservative and liberal bourgeois parties. For many years, the EPP has been in a parliamentary group together with the British Conservatives and related parties. In the meantime, however, those parties have formed a separate group, so that the EPP does not include parties and representatives from all Member States any longer. The EPP regularly represents pro-European solutions, because usually it sees the advantages of continental policy making very clearly. However, there are also MEPs in its ranks who particularly emphasize the subsidiarity requirement. This requirement underlines the European principle that only those issues should be regulated at a higher level which cannot be regulated similarly well at the lower local or regional level. This is based on the hope that less is decided in Brussels in a mandatory manner for all, and more is decided again individually in the nation states.

The EPP sees itself as a value-oriented parliamentary group that mainly defends the value of freedom against too much state interference. Therefore, the EPP is usually very pro-business.

In the cultural policy, the position of the EPP Group is not quite uniform. The parties agree on emphasizing the common European Christian tradition. Going into details, however, it becomes clear that there are different interpretations of what the European cultural similarities are that should be preserved. When it comes to the issue of the actual design of European measures, the positions are also very different, in particular with regard to the question how big the national influence should be. However, the group agrees that the concepts to be developed must not be “too wild”. Traditional forms of cultural activities are to be clearly preferred over too modern forms. The latter tend to overwhelm people.

ROLE PROFILE**Representative of the “Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei (CSV)” from Luxembourg**

You are a representative of the “Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei (CSV)” from Luxembourg. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Luxembourg

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Luxembourgish, German, French

POPULATION

0.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 88,500

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.6 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

12.7 %

In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, approx. 500,000 inhabitants live on about 2,500 square kilometers. Thus, based on its population size, Luxembourg is the second-smallest EU Member State. The country was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s, and founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other West European countries when the East-West divide of the continent came to an end. In addition, Luxembourg was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Despite its small size, Luxembourg has a very versatile economic structure with a strong industry. With an estimated economic performance of 44 billion euro in 2014, it takes 22nd place among the economic partners in the EU.

The CSV was already founded in the winter of 1944 in Luxembourg, shortly after the liberation from German occupation. The economic policy is one of its priorities. To secure further economic development, the objective is to maintain Luxembourg’s locational advantages. To this end, the party would like to consistently invest in education, research and innovation, since the Luxembourg economy is mainly focused on export. The party program emphasizes that the CSV is the European party of Luxembourg, and that the country can secure its strength and the common currency only together with all other EU Member States. This makes it possible to negotiate with the United States and Russia on equal footing. From the point of view of the CSV, the EU is the best response to globalization. For the citizens, it represents a stronghold of stability that protects savings, jobs and growth opportunities. The CSV would like to continue the peacekeeping missions of the EU; this kind of policy should be further developed through a revision of the political and strategic guidelines. From the perspective of the CSV, the role of the EU is already today very strongly shaped by the security and defense policy, e.g. in the Balkans, in Africa and in the Caucasus.

You think that the Commission’s initiative comes just at the right time. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. Although Luxembourg is one of the smallest countries in the EU, its voice has always been heard. In your view, this is because Luxembourg has always had good, rational arguments. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world.



Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east and south of the continent.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project. Due to its size, Luxembourg maintains no own cultural institute infrastructure abroad and has only sporadically funded projects abroad in the past. 1995 and 2007, Luxembourg City was already “European City (Capital) of Culture”, but that was a long time ago. The other countries certainly have great ideas and good concepts that you will readily endorse. The ideas must not be too funky, however, you owe that to your conservative voters. And you warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. You feel particularly connected with Germany and France, not least because of the language, however, it is also important to you to cultivate and use your own Luxembourgish language. Luxembourgish was designated as the national language only in 1984. Since then it is the third official language in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in addition to French and German (written standard German).

Last but not least, the motto of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is: “Mir wölle bleiwe wat mir sin” (We want to remain what we are).

You like to bring yourself into play as a neutral mediator, however. The idea of the Commission must work, that is your major goal! Therefore, from your point of view, it would be best if the Commission got as much power as possible. This would scotch national egoism. Especially the identities of the small EU countries must be preserved, however.



ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “Forza Italia” from Italy**

You are a representative of “Forza Italia” from Italy. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Rome

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Italian, regionally also German, French, Ladin and Slovenian

POPULATION

60.3 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 26,500

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

1.4 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

8.0 %

In the Republic of Italy, approx. 60.3 million inhabitants live on about 300,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Italy takes 4th place among the EU Member States. The country was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s and founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other West European countries. In addition, Italy was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Due to its size and its very versatile economic structure with a small-scale industry, Italy takes 4th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 1,597 billion euro in 2014.

Forza Italia was founded as a new political movement by Silvio Berlusconi in 1994 in the context of the resolution of the “Democrazia Cristiana” and mainly campaigned for a more liberal and less centralized Italy. The government led since 2001 by Silvio Berlusconi and Forza Italia proved to be the most stable in Italian post-war history. Politically, however, it would repeatedly come under pressure and was not able to enforce various projects, among others due to massive protests of the trade unions, and partly because of resistance from its coalition partners. The economic situation of the country played an important role in successfully voting out Forza Italia. Contrary to its campaign promises, the party did not succeed to initiate an economic heyday. With its partly populist mission for a patriotic Italy that at the same time remains open to community and solidarity in Europe, it was immediately elected both into the Italian and the European Parliament. Due to internal power struggles, the party called itself from 2009 to 2013 “Il popolo della Libertà” (“The people of freedom”). Meanwhile, it uses its former name again.

Italy has supported all measures aimed at deepening the Community since the beginning of the European Union. All Italian governments and the majority of the population have always been very pro-European. If there are suitable EU solutions for a problem, they usually do not fall through because of Italy. Nevertheless, given its economic weight, domestic problems and geographical location, Italy can surely be a tough negotiator when protecting its own interests.

From the viewpoint of Forza Italia, Italy faces major challenges, such as the financial crisis, global warming, unemployment, migration and demographic trends, the solution of which will be neither quick nor easy. However, every crisis is also an opportunity, as the history of European unification has shown! Therefore, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that this idea can bring Europe closer together again.

However, at the same time, everyone has to realize that Italy must play a significant role, appropriate to its size and importance. Within the EU, Italy belongs together with Greece to the undisputed cradle of European culture. Innumerable testimonies to the history of humanity can be found in Rome and throughout the country. At the same time, Italy has had a significant influence on the development of the European continent up to the modern era. Italy played an important role as the center of the Roman Empire, the seat of the papacy and the cradle of the Renaissance, and had become the breeding ground of European art, culture and research.



Italy has approximately 100,000 monuments of any type (museums, castles, statues, churches, galleries, villas, fountains, historic houses and archaeological finds). It is the country with the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites worldwide – 51 in total! The Italian language is spoken all over the world, also by large communities of former emigrants.

A large fragmentation also denotes their cultural policy activities. In addition to archaeological and touristic aspects, the promotion of the Italian language is also a big concern for you. Around 90 “Istituti Italiani” worldwide work on this task. In addition, there exists a variety of programs of other public authorities (such as cities and regions), usually without a coordinated cooperation. A concentration of efforts on a few objectives or organizations has barely taken place and is not

regarded as beneficial, either.

With Genua (1986), Bologna (1999) and again Genua (2004) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”, Italy has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. Therefore, it is quite obvious to you that Italy must be given a strong voice with regard to the content-related design of the concept. You are very sensitive that the Italian language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe. Otherwise, you are quite open to innovations, as long as they are not too excessively modern. You think that being in a position to look back at such an old culture, you can also afford a relaxed “misstep” from time to time. You miss this serenity in many of your colleagues, particularly from countries with cultures that are not as old. The experience of Italy must of course be used. You are not quite sure if you would go so far as to close the Italian cultural institutes when a European cultural institute is established. You think it is better to wait and see first. If the concept is good, you will be definitely ready to dip into your purse. Of course, it would be best to dip into the purse of the EU... In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present. *wahrgenommen werden möchte, sollte auch global präsent sein.*

ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB)”**

You are a representative of “Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB).” Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Sofia

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Bulgarian

POPULATION

7.6 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 6,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.2 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.8 %

In the Republic of Bulgaria, approx. 7.6 million inhabitants live on nearly 111,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Bulgaria takes 16th place among the EU Member States. Until 1989, the old People’s Republic of Bulgaria was an Eastern bloc country aligned with the Soviet Union, excluded from the democratic unification of Western Europe. After the first free elections in 1990, the Republic of Bulgaria had sought to accede to the European Union which it finally joined together with Romania on January 1, 2007. Bulgaria has not yet adopted the euro. Despite its size, the economic structure of the country is relatively weak. With a gross domestic product of approx. 45 billion euro in 2014, it takes 21st place among the economic partners in the EU.

In Bulgarian, the acronym GERB consists of the initial letters of *Graschdani sa Ewropejsko Raswitie na Balgaria / Graždani za Ewropejsko Razwitie na Bălgarija / Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria* (Bulgarian “Граждани за европейско развитие на България”). At the same time, the word “gerb” means “coat of arms”. GERB is a party that believes in Christian Democratic principles. The party has its roots in Christianity, in the family and the traditional values, which from the perspective of GERB are very important in today’s very insecure world. Already shortly after its foundation, GERB became the leading political force in Bulgaria. In May 2007, it won the elections to the European Parliament. In the elections to the European Parliament in 2014, GERB was able to win six seats for its representatives, making it the most powerful conservative force in Bulgaria.

GERB is committed to a liberal democracy which is based on the principles of freedom, responsibility, progress, solidarity and justice. The Christian values form the basis of the traditions of course and are as important. GERB is happy about the fact that Bulgaria with its specific historical background and its culture has become a member country of the EU. Therefore, the party wants to work on a positive image of Bulgaria in the EU, however, the self-perception of the Bulgarians must also change in this context. Bulgaria’s membership in the EU represents a unique historical opportunity.

From the point of view of GERB, the EU faces major challenges, such as the financial crisis, global warming, unemployment, migration and demographic trends, the solution of which will be neither quick nor easy. However, every crisis is also an opportunity! Therefore, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that this idea can bring Europe closer together again. And in your opinion, Bulgaria should play a key role in this project. By now, with your 10 Bulgarian cultural institutes, you have your own cultural institute infrastructure, a Bulgarian city has never been designated as a “European City (Capital) of Culture”, however. You have experiences that you would like to contribute. You want to focus on presenting the common European heritage. For you, this is quite explicitly a Christian heritage. This must be clear to everyone, despite all the tolerance of other religions! All this newfangled nonsense is not your type of “culture”, either. For you, poetry slams and light installations are just a waste of money and have nothing to do with European traditions.



Also, it is particularly important to you that specifically Bulgarian content is included in the Commission’s project, for example the Cyrillic script and the Eastern Church traditions that from your viewpoint too often perish in the EU. After all, the EU’s motto is “unity in diversity”. As a rather small EU country that unfortunately still has a less powerful economy, Bulgaria can of course make financial contributions only to a lesser degree. Here, the larger Member States are called upon, or better yet the EU budget. Then no country will be able to claim too much influence for itself according to the motto “Who pays the piper, calls the tune”.

In your view, Bulgaria should play an active role in the realization of the political vision for the Western Balkans and of the “Eastern partnership”, with an emphasis on the Black Sea region. The Commission’s initiative fits perfectly in this context! You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture - we must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east and south of the continent.



ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “Les Republicanains” from France**

You are a representative of “Les Republicanains” from France. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Paris

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

French

POPULATION

64.7 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 32,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.6 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.6 %

In the Republic of France, approx. 64.7 million inhabitants live on nearly 669,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, France takes 2nd place among the EU Member States. It was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s and founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other West European countries. In addition, France was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Until the early 1960s, the country had one of the largest colonial empires in history. This continues to have an effect on the population structure and the national identity. Due to its size and its very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, France is the third largest economic partner in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 2,060 billion euro in 2014.

The forerunner of Les Republicanains was the UMP. It emerged as an amalgamation of different conservative, pro-European parties from the presidential election in 2002 and has since established itself in France as a party. The party has had its present name since 2015. The European integration process at the beginning of the 21st century is considered indispensable for the modernization of France and for a joint independence at the international level. It is widely accepted that the greatness of the French nation can only be maintained in a united and independent Europe that is built according to the model of a federation of nation states and respects the diversity of its individual members.

Overall, the party has adopted a rather pro-European policy that strives for an adequate role of France in a united Europe. France’s significance as the most important European nation alongside Germany usually means that Paris stands shoulder to shoulder with Berlin and tends to give less weight to the interests of smaller Member States. From the viewpoint of Paris, an agreement against France is absolutely inadequate to the political and economic situation in the EU. The nationwide maintenance and preservation of France’s rich material cultural heritage is regarded as a task of national importance. This understanding is effectively brought into the public domain through measures organized or sponsored by the state, which contribute to the formation of a national cultural awareness. Examples are national heritage, music or cinema days that are firmly anchored in the annual cultural calendar and are highly popular among the French.

From the viewpoint of Les Republicanains, the EU faces major challenges, such as the financial crisis, global warming, unemployment, migration and demographic trends, the solution of which will be neither quick nor easy. However, every crisis is also an opportunity, as the history of European unification has shown! Therefore, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that this idea can bring Europe closer together again.

However, at the same time, everyone has to realize that France must play a very significant role, appropriate to its size and importance. France has an old culture which has been a dominant force not only in the history of the European continent. Therefore, it is quite obvious to you that France must be given a strong voice with regard to the content-related design of the concept. This includes of course the French language which is especially protected by law in France, and whose cultivation is generously supported by the State. You are always very sensitive that the French language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe. With regard to content, you are rather conservative. You are skeptical towards too many innovations. Poetry slams, light installations... in your opinion, much of this has less to do with the high culture that you stand for. With 94 “Instituts Français” worldwide, France also has its own cultural institute infrastructure and a lot of experience with cultural activities abroad. With Paris (1989), Avignon (1999), Lille (2004) and Marseille (2013) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”, France has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. This experience must be used of course. You are not quite sure if you would go so far as to close your own cultural institutes when a European cultural institute is established.

If the concept is good, you will be definitely ready to dip into your purse. As “Grand Nation”, France should not splash out in this respect.



In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It

has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture.

You owe it to all French people that France plays a most important role in the new project. You are strongly committed to that goal. In particular, stand shoulder to shoulder with the representatives from Germany. If France and Germany agree and go ahead, it can carry the whole of Europe forward, as history has shown many times.

GROUP PROFILE

EP – “Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)” Group



The S&D Group is one of the two largest groups in the European Parliament. Its member parties come from the center-left spectrum of European politics. This means that apart from the traditional Social Democratic parties, your parliamentary group also consists of socialist and some regional parties. Most S&D parties belong to the Party of European Socialists, so that the connection between the members of the group is quite strong. For some years now, the S&D Group has had members from all EU countries. This makes it the only pan-European parliamentary group. The S&D regularly represents pro-European solutions, because usually it sees the advantages of common policy making very clearly. However, there are also MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) in the ranks of the S&D who particularly emphasize the subsidiarity requirement. This requirement underlines the European principle that only those issues should be regulated at a higher level which cannot be regulated similarly well at the lower local or regional level. The S&D Group sees itself as a value-oriented parliamentary group that mainly defends the value of justice against too much inequality resulting from the markets. Therefore, the S&D is generally both pro-business and pro-employee.

In the cultural policy, the position of the S&D Group is relatively uniform. The members of the group unanimously welcome the proposal as a step towards greater European unity. As the only group with members from all EU Member States, who, in addition, are all pro-European, the S&D likes to see itself as the “spearhead” of European unification. Especially since in this very new cultural policy field you can take important steps right from the start. However, most differences result from the question what influence national concepts of cultural activities should have on a new overall concept of European cultural activities.

ROLE PROFILE**Representative of the “Labour Party” from the United Kingdom**

You are a representative of the “Labour Party” from the United Kingdom. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

London

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English, regionally also Cornish, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Scots, Ulster Scots and Welsh

POPULATION

62 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 34,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

1.7 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

12.0 %

In the United Kingdom (UK), approx. 62 million inhabitants live on nearly 245,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Great Britain, as the UK is often called, takes 3rd place among the EU Member States. The country joined the European Community already in 1973. From the very beginning, both the population and the two major parties, Labour Party and Conservatives, had massive reservations about the membership. It is typically British, however, to seek pragmatic solutions in the matter. Since from the perspective of most Brits and their politicians the benefits of membership predominated, Great Britain also supported the establishment of the European Union when the East-West divide of the continent came to an end. However, it neither fully participates in the common security policy nor in the social policy. In addition, the United Kingdom has not introduced the euro and, together with Ireland, is not a Schengen State, either. However, it is attached to this community that eliminated physical frontiers by means of a separate agreement. Due to its size and very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Great Britain is the second largest economic partner in the EU.

The United Kingdom sees the meaning of European integration first and foremost in the economic field, but has looked skeptically at further political integration and the resulting handing over of state sovereignty to supranational EU institutions. Although EU policy has become more important for Great Britain, the close alliance with the US is just as important. However, under the former government of Tony Blair, Britain has been increasingly trying to be a leading and respected partner in the EU, standing for a peaceful and democratic Europe of stability and prosperity. The Labour Party still considers his positive engagement as the best way to protect national interests, regain lost influence, shape a prosperous future together with the Member States, and get the best for Britain.

You welcome the Commission’s idea, because you believe that Great Britain can gain an economic advantage from it. For you, European unification is not an end in itself. After all, your voters expect from you that there will be some benefits for them. In this context, it is also important that Britain will have as much influence as possible on all decisions. You could not accept it if decisions are made in Brussels against Britain.

In any case, regarding all new ideas and concepts, Britain’s experience on the international stage must be considered. Alone due to its unrivaled colonial history, Great Britain sees itself as a cultural world power, with no country on the mainland in the position to beat it. Even today, countries that are members of the Commonwealth of Nations have a total of 2.3 billion inhabitants, which is equivalent to almost one third of the world population. With the BBC, the largest and, according to opinion polls, the most trusted broadcaster in the world, and with a major influence on global pop culture, the significance of the cultural sector in terms of foreign and economic policy has been recognized and promoted early on.



The status of English as a world language is of course constitutive for that. The British Council alone is represented with more than 100 offices worldwide. With Glasgow (1986) and Liverpool (2008) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”, Britain has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. Of course, this also includes the English language. You are very sensitive that the English language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe. Hardly anyone will question that, however!

Otherwise, you are quite open to innovations, even outside the mainstream. After all, eccentricity and self-irony are also a sympathetic trademark which has always worked very successfully for you. You miss this serenity in many of your colleagues, particularly from countries with a younger culture and possibly unresolved identity conflicts. With over 100 “British Councils” worldwide, Great Britain also has its own cultural institute infrastructure and a lot of experience with cultural activities abroad. This experience must be used of course. To close the British Council in favor of a European cultural institute, however, is out of the question. Where would we end up if that happens?

You owe it to your voters that Great Britain plays a most important role in the new project. You are strongly committed to that goal. Try to build up alliances in particular with the representatives of other major EU States. When it comes to money, the EU is called for above all, the idea comes from the Commission after all. The party who orders something has to be the one to pay for it.

In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present. This is how Great Britain has always handled things.



ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “Partit Laburista” from Malta**

You are a representative of “Partit Laburista” from Malta. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Valletta

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Maltese, English

POPULATION

0.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 18,600

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.1 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

13.9 %

In Malta, approx. 400,000 inhabitants live on only 316 square kilometers. Thus, based on its population size, Malta is the smallest EU Member State. On May 1, 2004, Malta joined the EU, superseding Luxembourg as the smallest member country. On January 1, 2008, Malta adopted the euro. With an estimated economic performance of 9.3 billion euro in 2014, it takes 28th place among the economic partners in the EU.

Partit Laburista (English: labor party), founded in 1921, was very skeptical towards Malta joining the EU. While always advocating a strengthened political and economic cooperation with the EU, e.g. as part of the Association Agreement and in the form of a free trade area, the party had always rejected EU membership for various other reasons. Partit Laburista was of the opinion that a political union would include obligations and costs for Malta that would be too excessive. In addition, it also feared negative economic consequences for Malta that could have led to an increase in poverty and a strengthening of social imbalance. Since Malta’s accession to the EU, however, the party has undergone a transformation and adopted a largely pro-European, although not uncritical line.

You think that the Commission’s initiative comes just at the right time. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world. Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. We must not get lost in details. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the south of the continent, especially in North Africa, in the immediate proximity to Malta.



You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project. Due to its small size, Malta has no own cultural institute infrastructure abroad and has only sporadically funded projects abroad in the past. Malta has a long tradition in the organization of language courses for the English language. For this reason alone, many residents of Malta had and still have contact with people from abroad, and they gladly accommodate and support them in learning a language that is spoken also in Malta. In addition, however, Malta also has a very rich and unique culture which unfortunately has often remained unrecognized. There are more than 300 churches in the small Republic of Malta, including two whose domes are among the largest self-supporting domes in Europe. Despite its small size, three monuments in Malta have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List to date: the capital Valletta, the Ġgantija temple complex and the Hypogeum of Hal-Saflieni. This makes many Maltese very proud.

No city in Malta has held the title of a “European City (Capital) of Culture” yet, with the only possible candidate being the capital. The other countries certainly have great ideas and good concepts that you will readily endorse.

You warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. Due to its geographical proximity, you feel particularly connected with Italy. You definitely want to participate in this new project. A small country like Malta needs the EU to accomplish any international goals. Of course, it is also clear that Malta can hardly participate financially. The larger countries must make a greater contribution. Another possibility would be to finance everything from EU funds.



CAPITAL

Berlin

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

German, regionally also Danish and Sorbian

POPULATION

80.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 35,400

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

1.9 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.7 %**ROLE PROFILE****Representative of the “Social Democratic Party of Germany”**

You are a representative of the “Social Democratic Party of Germany”. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, approx. 82 million inhabitants live on nearly 360,000 square kilometers. This makes Germany the largest Member State of the EU. The old Federal Republic of Germany was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s. After the reunification in 1990, Germany founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other Western European countries. In addition, Germany was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Due to its size and very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Germany is by far the biggest economic partner in the EU. In 2014, the gross domestic product amounted to 2,849 billion euro.

Thus, a united Europe that is capable of acting is considered an elementary German interest, cooperation with France as part of the “Franco-German engine” has first priority. The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) also wants further integration towards a political Union and is committed to ensuring that the EU can continue to meet its challenges. Therefore, it demands for instance the development of a common European foreign and defense policy, where possible majority decisions would ensure the ability to act.

You think that the Commission’s initiative comes just at the right time. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that if the discussion is objective, all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world. Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present.

Germany has an old culture which has been a dominant force in the history of the European continent. With West Berlin (1988), Weimar (1999) and Essen/ Ruhr (2010) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”, Germany has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. It is also important to you that the German language is treated on a par with the other major languages of Europe.

In the past, Germany has been a little cautious in that respect, which is why today mainly English and French are used as working languages, even though German is the most used native language in the EU. Here, you definitely wish to see the course altered, not with a sledgehammer of course, but rather diplomatically and quietly.

The roots of German art and culture history date back to the time of the Celts, Teutons and Romans. Germany has brought forth numerous style- and epoch-shaping personalities. Until this day, German artists are among the protagonists of Western civilization. Over the centuries, German culture has defined itself primarily through the common language, because Germany had not existed as a nation state for quite some time.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project, however. You do not want to appear too dominant, because that would rather harm the common project. However, you make it clear that Germany has a lot of experience with foreign cultural activities, which you would gladly bring to the table. With 160 “Goethe Institutes” worldwide and over 90 of their liaison offices, Germany also has its own, extensive cultural institute infrastructure and plenty of experience with cultural activities abroad. Not to mention the “Institute for International and Cultural Relations” with its worldwide connections! To be honest, you regret the absence of the German organizational culture in many European partners.

You are not quite sure if you would go so far as to close the German cultural institutes when a European cultural institute is established. You think it is better to wait and see first. If the concept is good, you will be definitely ready to dip into your purse. As a country with the most powerful economy, Germany should not splash out in this respect.

You feel especially connected with France. But you also like to bring yourself into play as a neutral mediator. The idea of the Commission must work, that is your major goal! Therefore, from your point of view, it would be best if the Commission got as much power as possible. This would scotch national egoism.



GROUP PROFILE**EP – “Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)” Group**

The ALDE Group is one of the medium-sized groups in the European Parliament. Your member parties come from the liberal spectrum of European politics. This means that apart from the traditional Liberal Democratic parties, your parliamentary group also consists of Liberal Left, Liberal National and some regional parties. For many years now, the ALDE Group has had members from almost all EU countries. Therefore, in its self-perception, it is a pan-European parliamentary group. The ALDE Group regularly represents pro-European solutions, because usually it sees the advantages of continental policy making very clearly. However, there are also MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) in the ranks of ALDE who particularly emphasize the subsidiarity requirement. This requirement underlines the European principle that only those issues should be regulated at a higher level which cannot be regulated similarly well at the lower local or regional level. The ALDE Group sees itself as a value-oriented parliamentary group that mainly defends civil liberties against too much paternalism from the states. Therefore, the ALDE is usually very pro-business.

In the cultural policy, the position of the ALDE Group is relatively uniform. In principle, the group is open to new ideas in this field, but emphasizes that the EU must not get too much power. National characteristics must not be lost – on the contrary, they have to be strengthened. With regard to all activities, the economic perspective must also be taken into account. What is good for the economy is also good for the people. Not least due to that fact, the internal market is least criticized.

ROLE PROFILE**Representative of The “Venstre” from Denmark**

You are a representative of the “Venstre” from Denmark. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Copenhagen

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Danish, regionally also German, Faroese, Kalaallisut

POPULATION

5.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 45,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

3.2 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

12.4 %

The Kingdom of Denmark has about 5.5 million inhabitants who live on about 43,000 square kilometers (excluding Greenland and Faroe Islands). Thus, Denmark belongs to the rather smaller countries in the EU, taking 17th place based on its population size. It joined the EU in 1973 together with Great Britain and Ireland. Denmark has not adopted the euro. Due to its very versatile economic structure with a small-scale industry, Denmark’s gross domestic product amounted to approx. 247 billion euro in 2014, thus it takes 11th place in the EU.

The Venstre (English: the Left) is a liberal Danish party that was established already in 1870. The Venstre sees itself as a value-oriented party that mainly defends civil liberties against too much paternalism from the states. Therefore, the Venstre is very pro-business. The Venstre is basically very pro-European, however, it also emphasizes the subsidiarity requirement. This requirement underlines the European principle that only those issues should be regulated at a higher level which cannot be regulated similarly well at the lower local or regional level. Since 2001, Venstre has been the topping the polls in Denmark. The Venstre has 3 of 13 representatives in the European Parliament.

In principle, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that it is always important to consider a deepening of the European unification. Especially in these times, when the idea of European cooperation appears to be losing popularity. Particularly Denmark has always benefited from European unification as the center of Northern Europe, especially in economic terms.

However, you do not want Brussels to get more and more power. Especially as a smaller country, Denmark should make sure that as many things as possible are decided in Copenhagen. You think that in recent years, many things have gone wrong in this respect. In many areas, you would prefer to turn back the clock, but at least it must be prevented that the Danes can decide even less for themselves.

VENSTRE

When Copenhagen was “European City (Capital) of Culture” in 1996, you were quite pleased, however. Back then, the world would show interest in Denmark, but it was a long, long time ago. You think that Denmark has much to offer. Denmark has much experience especially with regard to cultural innovations, after all, the first poetry slams and light installations took place in Denmark. You cannot understand that others consider that a waste of money. It is obvious that culture needs to be constantly renewed unless it is to solidify into a ritual. In addition, with the “Danish Cultural Institutes”, you have your own small but excellent cultural institute infrastructure. These structures must definitely be maintained, and the experience taken into account. You would like the Commission’s idea to mainly bring economic success. This is what your voters expect from politicians. Politics should provide a framework in which people can achieve as many profits as possible for the good of all. If this is ensured, the Commission’s idea may by all means cost some money.

You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. We should not get lost in details, however. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east and south of the continent.

One thing is clear to you: You reject all proposals leading to a situation where even more decisions are taken in Brussels and not in Copenhagen! The little country of Denmark must have codecision powers everywhere on an equal footing! The EU does not need a second “British Council” or “Goethe Institute”, we need to think from scratch.



ROLE PROFILE**Representative of the “Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD)” from the Netherlands**

You are a representative of the “Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD)” from the Netherlands. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Amsterdam

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Dutch, regionally also Frisian

POPULATION

16.6 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 39,300

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

3.4 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

11.8 %

In the Kingdom of the Netherlands, approx. 16.6 million inhabitants live on over 41,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, the Netherlands take 8th place among the EU Member States. The Netherlands were a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s. When the East-West divide of the continent came to an end, the Netherlands founded the European Union along with eleven other Western European countries. The Netherlands are a unitary state with provinces who partly have their own culture-based laws. Due to their size and their very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, the Netherlands take 6th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 652 billion euro in 2014.

The liberal Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie VVD (English: the Liberal People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy) would often be part of the government especially in the eighties. In many respects, the VVD supports the above European policy of the country. In European policy, however, it calls more radically for a reform of agriculture, as well as for market orientation and competitiveness. It stands up for a Europe of the Regions and deregulation. The headquarters in Brussels should only decide about issues that cannot be solved at national or regional level, e.g. a common foreign and security policy.

In principle, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that it is always important to consider a deepening of the European unification. Especially in these times, when the idea of European cooperation appears to be losing popularity. Particularly the Netherlands have always benefited from European unification in the center of Europe, especially in economic terms.

However, you do not want Brussels to get more and more power. You think that in recent years, many things have gone wrong in this respect. In many areas, you would prefer to turn back the clock, but at least it must be prevented that the Dutch can decide even less for themselves.

You think that the Netherlands have much to offer. You have always enjoyed being at the forefront of cultural innovations, such as poetry slams and light installations, and therefore have a lot of experience in that field. You cannot understand that others consider that a waste of money. It is obvious that culture needs to be constantly renewed unless it is to solidify into a ritual. This is where you draw a clear line, however: above all, it is the promising cultural projects that should be supported. You also explicitly say this in an economic sense. Culture must also be profitable, ideally even pay for itself. You would like the Commission’s idea to mainly bring economic success. This is what your voters expect from politicians. Politics should provide a framework in which people can achieve as many profits as possible for the good of all. If this is ensured, the Commission’s idea may by all means cost some money.



Unlike many large and medium-sized countries, you do not have your own cultural institute infrastructure. You are especially proud of the fact that Amsterdam was “European City (Capital) of Culture” already in 1987, and Rotterdam in 2001. Both with regard to culture and elsewhere, the following is important for you: you do not want to let others make decisions for you only because they have more experience. What all Dutch are proud of to this day is that many world-famous painters were Dutch: Hieronymus Bosch, Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Vincent van Gogh and Piet Mondrian, to name just a few. During the so-called “Golden Age” in the 17th century, about 700 painters worked in the Netherlands who finished around 70,000 paintings each year. Such a massive “painting output” has remained without precedent in the entire history of art.

You have always associated cultural policy with foreign policy. The Netherlands have a long colonial history as well, e.g. Suriname would gain its independence from the Netherlands only in 1975. Since the 17th century, the small country of the Netherlands certainly have had global influence, and therefore have also wanted to be a global player. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. We should not get lost in details, however. Therefore, we should rather count on the European Neighborhood Policy in the east and south of the continent.

One thing is clear to you: You reject all proposals leading to a situation where even more decisions are taken in Brussels and not in The Hague! In addition, the Netherlands must have codecision powers everywhere on an equal footing! The EU does not need a second “British Council” or “Goethe Institute”, we need to think from scratch. Try to team up with Germany, your great neighbor, and of course with Belgium to which you feel particularly close culturally let alone due to the Flemish part of the population.



GROUP PROFILE**EP – “Greens / European Free Alliance / EFA” Group**

The Group of the Greens (EFA) is one of the medium-sized groups in the European Parliament. Your member parties come from the ecological and liberal bourgeois spectrum, and regional European politics. This means that apart from the traditional ecological parties, your parliamentary group also consists of Liberal Left and regional independence parties. For many years now, the Group of Greens / EFA Group has had members from numerous EU countries. Therefore, in its self-perception, it is a pan-European parliamentary group. The Group of Greens / EFA Group regularly represents pro-European solutions, because usually it sees the advantages of common policy making very clearly. However, there are also MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) in the ranks of the Group of Greens / EFA Group who particularly emphasize the subsidiarity requirement. This requirement underlines the European principle that only those issues should be regulated at a higher level which cannot be regulated similarly well at the lower local or regional level. The Group of Greens / EFA Group sees itself as a value-oriented parliamentary group that mainly emphasizes the protection of the environment and defends civil liberties against too much paternalism from the states. It usually takes a critical stance towards business.

In the cultural policy, the position of the Group of Greens / EFA Group is relatively uniform. The members of the group welcome every proposal that is a step towards greater European unity. However, most differences result from the question what influence national concepts of cultural activities should have on a new overall concept of European cultural activities. Especially the regionalist parties in the group also stress that it is important to retain as much decision-making power in the Member States, even more so in the regions. On the other hand, all of them are quite open to modern and innovative concepts of cultural mediation, where ecological and social aspects also play an important role. This is an area that has often been ignored or neglected in the past.

ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “ECOLO” from Belgium**

You are a representative of “ECOLO” from Belgium. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Brussels

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Dutch, French, German

POPULATION

11 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 36,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.4 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

11.8 %

In Belgium, approx. 11 million inhabitants live on about 30,500 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Belgium takes 10th place in the EU. The country was a founding member of the European Communities already in the 1950s, and founded the European Union in 1993 along with eleven other West European countries when the East-West divide of the continent came to an end. In addition, Luxembourg was one of the first countries to adopt the euro. Despite its small size, Belgium has a very versatile economic structure with a strong industry. With an estimated economic performance of nearly 400 billion euro in 2014, it takes 9th place among the economic partners in the EU. Just like Europe, Belgium is a community that is composed of several parts: Flanders and Wallonia, each with a different language. In addition, there is a small German-speaking community in the East of the country. Belgium is clearly for further European integration. Only then Europe can be a strong voice in the world, that is why Belgium wants a strong Europe with many competences for the European Union.

In recent years, Belgium was undergoing an intense dispute over the future shape of the European Union. Especially followers of radical groups which argue for a strengthening of the regions and question the success of the European unification process have emerged strengthened from the elections to the Belgian and the European Parliament, with more than ten percent of votes. Apart from these radical groups, all Belgian parties are supporters of European unification. ECOLO, the green party of the French-speaking part of Belgium, basically also supports the process of European unification, and is particularly committed to strengthening social and ecological principles and projects. Europe should become a leading force in environmental protection and the enforcement of social justice. In this context, the party particularly emphasizes the principle of ecological, social and economic sustainability, and calls for a long-term European policy. Equal opportunities for all population groups and the integration of minorities into society are also among the main concerns of the Greens.

You think that the Commission’s initiative comes just at the right time. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that. National self-interest is totally out of place, here and anywhere else. You think that all will quickly become aware of the idea’s potential. Potential for further European integration, for economic prosperity, and for a stronger role of Europe in the world. Therefore, you also would want the Commission’s initiative to be understood as a foreign and security policy project. You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. The best solution would be to use the European External Action Service (EEAS) for this purpose. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project. Belgium does not have its own cultural institute infrastructure abroad, but always funded projects abroad in the past, most of which were either Walloon or Flemish, however, with no common “Belgian projects”. Still, you have some experience presenting your own culture. Antwerp (1993), Brussels (2000), Bruges (2002) and Mons (2015) were “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”. The other representatives certainly have great ideas and good concepts, however, that you will readily endorse. If it is up to you, the ideas can also be unusual, you would also like to anchor the ecological, social and economic sustainability in art and culture more strongly.

You warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. From your own experience with the two parts of the country, Flanders and Wallonia, you also know that it is best if as many people as possible have the feeling that they can co-decide. You feel particularly connected with the Netherlands and France, not least because of the language. But you also like to bring yourself into play as a neutral mediator. The idea of the Commission must work, that is your major goal! Therefore, from your point of view, it would be best if the Commission got as much power as possible. This would scotch national egoisms. Especially the identities of the small EU countries must be preserved, however.



ROLE PROFILE**Representative of the “Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds (ICV)” from Spain**

You are a representative of the “Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds (ICV)” from Spain. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Madrid

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Spanish, regionally also Aragonese, Aranese, Asturian, Basque, Galician and Catalan

POPULATION

46 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 22,400

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.6 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.1 %

In the Kingdom of Spain, approx. 46 million inhabitants live on over 504,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Spain takes 5th place among the EU Member States. The country has been a member of the European Communities already since 1986. After the death of military dictator General Franco in 1975, Spain quickly succeeded in establishing and consolidating democracy. When the East-West divide of Europe came to an end, Spain founded the European Union along with eleven other Western European countries in 1993. Due to its size and its very versatile economic structure with a strong industry, Spain takes 5th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 1,031 billion euro in 2014. Since 2008, the country has suffered greatly under the world economic crisis, however, which resulted in a high unemployment rate, especially among young people, the collapse of the construction industry and banks in danger of insolvency. As a result of the bank bailout, the state is heavily indebted.

The Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds (ICV; English: Initiative for Catalonia Greens) is a left-ecological (ecosocialist) party of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia. The ICV is the only green party which has been able to become a significant political force in the country and therefore sees itself as a pioneer of “green ideas” in Spain. At the same time, however, the party also emphasizes the autonomous status of Catalonia and clearly rejects foreign control from Madrid. Since 2007, the ICV has been member of the European Green Party. Since the European elections in Spain in 2009, the ICV has held seats in the European Parliament.

From the point of view of ICV, the EU faces major challenges, such as the financial crisis, global warming, unemployment, migration and demographic trends, the solution of which will be neither quick nor easy. However, every crisis is also an opportunity! Therefore, you welcome the Commission proposal. You think that this idea can bring Europe closer together again.

For you, however, it is important that as many people as possible are involved in all decisions. In Catalonia, you had to make the painful experience of being controlled from Madrid often enough. That mechanism must not continue to proliferate to the European level. Brussels cannot and should not decide everything. The individual Member States and, to an even greater degree, the regions within the Member States have rich cultural traditions that must not perish. A “European monotony” is a nightmarish thought to you. For this reason, you are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project.

Spain has an old culture which has been a dominant force in the history of the European continent and the entire world order. Therefore, everyone has to realize that Spain must play a significant role, appropriate to its size and importance. Of course, a part of this culture is also the Spanish language. You are very sensitive that the Spanish language is on an equal footing with the other major languages of Europe.





It is also one of the reasons that Spain maintains close cultural relations with Spanish-speaking countries. Spain has an extensive cultural institute infrastructure and a lot of experience with cultural activities abroad. In addition to 65 language centers, the so-called Cervantes Institutes, a separate institute called “Acción Cultural Española (AC/E)” takes care of the dissemination of Spanish culture. This experience must be used of course. You also have some experience with the presentation of your own culture, with Madrid (1992), Santiago de Compostela (2000), Salamanca (2002) and San Sebastián (2016) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”. The

other representatives also certainly have great ideas and good concepts, however, that you will readily endorse. If it is up to you, the ideas can also be crazy, you would also like to anchor the ecological, social and economic sustainability more strongly, also with regard to art and culture.

You have always associated cultural policy primarily with foreign policy. It has always been difficult for EU countries to find a common foreign policy, since many Member States concern themselves too much with preserving their national sovereignty in this area. This is especially true when it comes to preserving historically evolved regional interests and acting accordingly. That is exactly why the EU must not waive cultural policy as a common and unifying instrument of international policy. Therefore, cultural policy must always be oriented towards the guidelines of European foreign policy as well. It is essential that Europe speaks with one voice also in culture. In addition, you think that the project should not be limited to the European neighborhood only. If you want to be globally recognized, you should also be globally present.

Conversely, this also means, however, that the EU must take on the financial responsibility.

Try to build up alliances in particular with the representatives of other major EU States. However, the EU does not need a second “British Council” or “Goethe Institute”, we need to think from scratch and take all previous experience into account. In this case, the Spanish contribution must be right there in the front row.

GROUP PROFILE**EP – “European United Left / Nordic Green Left (GUE-NGL)” Group**

The Group of the European United Left / Nordic Green Left is one of the smaller groups in the European Parliament. Your member parties come from the extreme left spectrum of European politics. In addition to traditional communist parties, your parliamentary group also consists of reform-oriented socialist parties. For many years now, the Left Group has had members from several EU countries. In its self-perception, it is an internationalist, euro-critical group. Nevertheless, some Left Group members represent pro-European solutions, since they generally have a very critical attitude towards national policy making. In the ranks of the Left Group, voices can be heard time and again that particularly emphasize the subsidiarity requirement. This requirement underlines the European principle that only those issues should be regulated at a higher level which cannot be regulated similarly well at the lower local or regional level. Many members of the Left Group think that this principle protects the people in Europe against too much bureaucracy from Brussels. The Left Group sees itself as a value-oriented parliamentary group that mainly defends the rights of people against exploitation from commerce and industry. Therefore, the Left Group usually takes a very critical stance towards business.

In the cultural policy, the position of the GUE-NGL Group is relatively uniform. The members of the group largely welcome the proposal as a step towards greater European unity. However, most differences result from the question what influence national concepts of cultural activities could have on a new overall concept of European cultural activities. On the other hand, all of them are quite open to modern and innovative concepts of cultural mediation. In addition, the members of the group think that one must be very much on guard when economic arguments are put forward. Under the guise that the success in the economy benefits all people, too often measures were adopted in the past from which only the rich and the corporations benefited. All members of your group agree that the course must be generally altered here.

ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “Sinn Féin” from Ireland**

You are a representative of “Sinn Féin” from Ireland. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Dublin

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English, Gaelic

POPULATION

4.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 41,000

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.6 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.1 %

In the Republic of Ireland, approx. 4.5 million inhabitants live on over 70,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Ireland takes 20th place among the EU Member States. It was not until 1922 that Ireland became independent of the British Empire after a bloody civil war. The northern part of the island is still under British sovereignty. Economically, until the 1990s, the Republic of Ireland had been a rather weak Member State of the European Union which it had joined together with its great eastern neighbor in 1973. Among other things, the EU-funded economic subsidies have helped to put Ireland’s economy, traditionally based on agriculture and emigration (for example, the emigrants would send a lot of money to their relatives in Ireland), on a sound footing. Today, the country is considered very pro-European, even if it is merely associated with the common framework for the control of the EU’s external borders (the Schengen Agreement) and is not a full member thereof (the same applies to Great Britain). In this way, the Republic of Ireland can abandon border controls with British Northern Ireland, but it can join the Schengen area only together with Great Britain. As one of the first countries, Ireland introduced the euro in 1999. Despite its rather small size with a relatively versatile economic structure, Ireland took 14th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an estimated economic performance of 180 billion euro in 2014.

Sinn Féin (Irish for: We Ourselves) is an Irish Republican party; at the same time, it advocates the greatest possible equality of opportunity for all citizens and social justice. In Northern Ireland, among its Catholic population, it has been the strongest party since 2005. In the Republic of Ireland, it has been represented in parliament since 1997 and is historically anchored there, in particular in the regions bordering Northern Ireland. Historically and also partly as regards content, Sinn Féin is associated with the Provisional Irish Republican Army and is therefore occasionally called the “political arm of the IRA”. In the European elections of 2004, Sinn Féin won three seats in the European Parliament.

You are cautiously optimistic with regard to the Commission proposal. You are always for initiatives that bring the peoples of Europe closer together. And you think that the Commission proposal suits this purpose very well. Europe needs a fresh impetus to ensure that European cooperation can continue to work well in the future. All EU countries will equally benefit from that.

However, you suspect the large countries from the European continent that they will try to dominate the discussions and decisions. As a small country, Ireland must also be involved in all decisions.

You are quite open with regard to the concrete design of the project. Ireland has no own cultural institute infrastructure abroad and has only sporadically funded projects abroad in the past. However, you already have some experience with the presentation of your own culture. After all, Dublin (1991) and Cork (2005) were “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”. The other representatives certainly have great ideas and good concepts, however, that you will readily endorse. If it is up to you, the ideas can also be crazy, you would also like to anchor the ecological, social and economic sustainability more strongly, also with regard to art and culture.

You warn against individual countries appearing too dominant. Such behavior has always only harmed the European idea in the past. Due to its geographical proximity, you feel particularly connected with Great Britain, although you have always feared and criticized the dominance of your neighbor from which Ireland became independent only through a long and extremely bloody resistance struggle in 1921. You make it particularly clear that the Irish culture should be understood as completely independent of British culture, e.g. you have your own Gaelic language which is also interpreted in the European Parliament. The national cultural identities must never perish. All too often, the European project has served the “big players” to have their will, leaving the “small players” only with a place at the side table.

You definitely want to participate in this new project. A small country like Ireland needs the EU to accomplish any international goals. Of course, it is also clear that Ireland can hardly participate financially. The larger countries must make a greater contribution. Another possibility would be to finance everything from EU funds.



ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “SYRIZA” from Greece**

You are a representative of “SYRIZA” from Greece. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Athens

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Griechisch

POPULATION

11 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 16,300

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.6 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.1 %

In the Hellenic Republic, approx. 11.3 million inhabitants live on nearly 132,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Greece takes 9th place among the EU Member States. Greece joined the European Communities already in 1983, several years before Spain and Portugal, and founded the European Union along with eleven other Western European countries. In 2002, Greece introduced the euro as the first accession country to the monetary union. Due to its size and its still continuing major state and economic problems, Greece slipped to 13th place among the economic partners in the EU, with an economic performance of approx. 179 billion euro in 2014.

Synaspismos Rizospastikis Aristeras (SYRIZA; Greek: Συνασπισμός Ριζοσπαστικής Αριστεράς, ΣΥΡΙΖΑ, translated as “Coalition of the Radical Left”) is a left-wing Greek party with a clear socialist orientation. The motto of the party is: “United and left, we will make the impossible possible!”. In 2015, it became the strongest political force in Greece, ahead of the conservative party. In the European elections of 2014, SYRIZA became the strongest political force, ahead of the conservative party which was the ruling party at that time.

The party is characterized by a strongly skeptical attitude towards the EU.

Accordingly, you are also critical of the EU Commission’s plans. You do not want Brussels to get more and more power. Especially Greece must make sure that it will not be limited even further in its freedom of choice, as is the case in the management of the budgetary and public debt crisis. In any case, you always suspect the large Member States that they want to dominate the smaller countries like Greece. They often argue that “who pays the piper, calls the tune”. This is just a knockout argument, however, which you will not accept. It goes without saying that the large countries have to pay more, after all, they are better off economically. But everyone must participate. In your opinion, when it comes to money, the EU is called for above all, the idea comes from the Commission after all. The party who orders something has to be the one to pay for it.



On the other hand, you are always for initiatives that bring the peoples of Europe closer together. And you think that the Commission proposal suits this purpose very well. Therefore, you do not flatly reject the plans. However, at the same time, everyone has to realize that Greece must play a significant role, appropriate to its size and importance. Within the EU, Greece belongs together with Italy to the undisputed cradle of European culture. Innumerable testimonies to the history of humanity can be found throughout the country. With Athens (1985), Thessaloniki (1997) and Patras (2006) as “European Cities (Capitals) of Culture”, Greece has already some experience in the international presentation of its culture. In addition, with the 11 international offices of the “Hellenic Foundations for Culture”, you have your own cultural institute infrastructure, even overseas! Therefore, it is quite obvious to you that Greece must be given a strong voice with regard to the content-related design of the concept. If it is up to you, the ideas can also be crazy, you would also like to anchor the ecological, social and economic sustainability more strongly, also with regard to art and culture.

But one thing is clear: you reject all proposals leading to a situation where even more decisions are taken in Brussels and not in Athens! The EU does not need a second “British Council” or “Goethe Institute”, we need to think from scratch. Try to team up with the other Mediterranean Countries as well. You have often been able to work together well with them on many occasions.



GROUP PROFILE**EP – “European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)” Group**

The ECR Group is one of the medium-sized groups in the European Parliament. Its member parties come from a similar spectrum as the member parties of the EPP (European People’s Party). Until a few years ago, the by far largest single party in the ECR, the British Conservatives, had a parliamentary group with the EPP. The ECR is located in the right-wing, conservative, but liberal market spectrum of European politics. The ECR has parties and MEPs only from some Member States. It regularly represents euro-critical positions, because usually it is highly critical of the advantages of continental policy making. However, a dissolution of the EU is a political objective of only very few of your parliamentary group colleagues. The ECR sees itself as a group that is rational with regard to economic policy and is therefore in favor of a functioning internal market that is as little regulated as possible. In particular, the ECR defends the value of freedom against too much state interference. Therefore, the ECR is usually very pro-business.

In the cultural policy, the position of the ECR Group is fairly uniform. In particular, the group’s members do not want Brussels to get too much power. Luckily, hardly anything has happened in this respect in the group’s opinion, especially with regard to cultural policy. A further transfer of key powers to Brussels is not in the interest of the group. With regard to the motto “unity in diversity”, the ECR clearly emphasizes the word “diversity”, with as little “unity” as possible. Also the citizens do not want any further measures, the electoral successes of populist parties in many EU countries show that clearly. The ECR Group does not want to be lumped together with those parties. On the other hand, the climate of public opinion should not be ignored.

ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “Občanská demokratická strana (ODS)” from Czech Republic**

You are a representative of “Občanská demokratická strana (ODS)” from the Czech Republic. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Prague

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Czech

POPULATION

10.5 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 14,700

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

2.2 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

9.8 %

In the Czech Republic, approx. 10.5 million inhabitants live on nearly 79,000 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, the Czech Republic takes 12th place among the EU Member States. The Czech Republic was not formed until 1993, when the Slovak part of the country became an independent state and old Czechoslovakia peacefully dissolved. The citizens of the old common state had peacefully ended the communist dictatorship in 1989. Both new countries pursued membership in the European Union and became members in 2004. While Slovakia introduced the euro already in 2009, the Czech Republic exhibits in general a more euroskeptical approach and has retained its own currency, the Czech koruna. Despite its size and a developed industry in a competitive economy, the Czech Republic takes only 17th place among the economic partners in the EU.

The markedly right-wing Občanská demokratická strana (English: Civic Democratic Party) was established in 1991. In the last two national elections, it was defeated by the Social Democrats (ČSSD), which is why it has been the strongest opposition party in the Czech Parliament for seven years. Previously, the ODS had been in power as governing party for six years and had implemented extensive democratic and economic reforms. Thanks also to the unpopular economic measures of the Czech government parties, the voters have once again increasingly turned to the ODS in the last European elections in June 2004.

The attitude of the ODS towards the EU was continuously rather skeptical or neutral at best. However, the ODS is very open to a merging of European economies. The party has drawn attention to the problematic or even negative aspects of European integration: too much bureaucracy, too much regulation, too many powers in Brussels and the impending restriction of Czech national interests. The ODS co-founded the ECR Group in 2009.

Accordingly, you are also critical of the EU Commission’s plans. You do not want Brussels to get more and more power. You think that in recent years, many things have gone wrong in this respect. In many areas, you would prefer to turn back the clock, but at least it must be prevented that Czechs can decide even less for themselves. In any case, you always suspect the large Member States that they want to dominate the smaller countries like the Czech Republic. You are therefore very vigilant especially towards Germany. After all, Germany has frequently made false claims in the past, e.g. to return the property of the Sudeten Germans that had been expropriated in 1945. You fear that Germany will get even more influence as a result of the Commission’s plans. The Czech Republic was controlled by other powers too often in its history! They often argue that “who pays the piper, calls the tune”. This is just a knockout argument, however, which you will not accept. With your 25 “Czech Centers”, you also have your own cultural institute infrastructure, one even in New York! You definitely want to avoid the formation of a double structure, because that would only cost a lot of money. Money that the Czech Republic does not have.



The Czech Republic, and particularly Prague are internationally very well-known and are visited each year by millions of tourists. Besides, outstanding structures and cultural monuments are also located outside the capital. By now, the Czech Republic has 12 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the historic centers of Český Krumlov, Kutná Hora and Telč. In addition, Pilsen was “European City (Capital) of Culture” in 2015. Of course, it would be great if the Czech Republic became even better known in the world. If the European Commission’s initiative helped with that, you would appreciate it. That would certainly bring even more tourists to the Czech Republic, a clear economic gain. You also think that the Czech Republic has much to offer. All this newfangled nonsense is not your type of “culture”, however. For you, poetry slams and light installations are just a waste of money.

And one thing is clear: you reject all proposals leading to a situation where even more decisions are taken in Brussels and not in Prague! And if it ever comes to this European House, the Czech Republic must also have a say on an equal footing! The EU does not need a second “British Council” or “Goethe Institute”, we need to think from scratch and take all previous experience into account. In particular, try to team up with the other Višegrad Group countries (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary) with which you were often able to profitably work together. You feel particularly connected to Slovakia also culturally as a result of your common history



ROLE PROFILE**Representative of “TB/LNNK” from Latvia**

You are a representative of “TB/LNNK” from Latvia. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

CAPITAL

Riga

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Latvian

POPULATION

2.2 million

GDP PER CAPITA (2014)

ca. € 11,900

EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE

4.2 %

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(2013, respectively in % of the central government expenditure)

15.7 %

In the Republic of Latvia, approx. 2.2 million inhabitants live on over 64,500 square kilometers. Thus, with regard to its population size, Latvia takes 23rd place among the EU Member States. Until 1991, Latvia was part of the Soviet Union and has quickly joined the West together with the other Baltic republics, Estonia and Lithuania. Latvia joined the EU in 2004. Latvia sees itself as very pro-European and has adopted the euro in 2014. With an estimated economic performance of 26 billion euro in 2014, it takes 25th place among the economic partners in the EU.

You belong to the “Alliance for Fatherland and Freedom (Tevzemei un Brīvībai Latvijas Nacionālās Neatkarības Kustība [TB/LNNK])” party. This party was once again able to score with its political views in the last European elections in Latvia. One of the eight Latvian MEPs is still part of this electoral alliance. The alliance of parties is also represented in the national domestic policy, but has ceased to be a strong political force. Domestically, the alliance has repeatedly distinguished itself with hostile initiatives, especially against the large Russian and also Polish minorities. For example, with the referendum “For a Latvian Latvia”, the party aimed to prevent granting minority rights to Russians, Ukrainians and Poles. The party also calls for the return of territories separated after World War II that became part of Russia.

The party is characterized by a strongly skeptical attitude towards the EU and puts national concerns before all European issues. Therefore, the party pleads that powers are returned from the European level to the level of the Member States. Therefore, a more in-depth cooperation at European level is not desired.

Accordingly, you are also critical of the EU Commission’s plans. You do not want Brussels to get more and more power. Especially as a small country, Latvia should make sure that as many things as possible are decided in Riga. You think that in recent years, many things have gone wrong in this respect. In many areas, you would prefer to turn back the clock, but at least it must be prevented that Latvians can decide even less for themselves. In any case, you always suspect the large Member States that they want to dominate the small countries like Latvia. You are therefore very vigilant especially towards Poland. After all, Poland has frequently interfered with Latvian home affairs, for instance with regard to the rights of the so-called Polish minority. You perceive Russia as equally problematic. Approximately 11% of Latvia’s population are Russians, with whom there are massive integration problems, often they do not even speak Latvian. And Russia has always heavily tried to position the Russian minority against the Latvians and thus influence Latvian policy. However, other large countries in the EU also often try to merely advance their interests against the interests of the small countries. Latvia was controlled by other powers too often in its history! They often argue that “who pays the piper, calls the tune”. This is just a knockout argument, however, which you will not accept. It goes without saying that the large countries have to pay more, after all, they are better off economically. But everyone must participate. In your opinion, when it comes to money, the EU is called for above all, the idea comes from the Commission after all. The party who orders something has to be the one to pay for it.

When Riga was “European City (Capital) of Culture” in 2014 and also took over the Presidency of the Council in 2015, you were quite pleased, however. Finally, other countries noticed that a country like Latvia exists. You also think that Latvia has much to offer. All this newfangled nonsense is not your type of “culture”, however. For you, poetry slams and light installations are just a waste of money. Money that Latvia does not have anyway. Of course, it would be great if Latvia became even better known in the world. If the European Commission’s initiative helped with that, you would appreciate it. That would certainly bring even more tourists to Latvia, a clear economic gain.

In history and also in the current Latvian culture, relations with Northern Europe are most important. The old towns have the typical elements that are common in the Hanse. Latvia is especially known for its folklore and traditional music culture. In Riga, a large Song and Dance Festival takes place every four years, in which several thousand Latvian, exile Latvian and international choirs participate. Also the small country of Latvia can be quite proud of its culture.



GROUP PROFILE**MEDIA**

You are a representative of the media. Try to understand their position and act accordingly.

You represent the media in the European Union. The work of the media in the EU is free. This means: You can report about anything, but no one can force you to report about something.

The media in the European countries are usually critical but polite.

Their main task is to present the political situation in the Member States and in the EU, the positions of the various parliamentary groups of the European Parliament, and the point of view of the European Commission. Even though the readers/viewers of your press services are themselves Members of the Parliament, the European Commission or the Member State Governments, the knowledge of the subject-matter of the dispute is distributed very unevenly. The members in the Council know the prevailing political situation in their country and have a slight idea of the situation in the other Member States. However, they know only little about the ongoing debates in the European Parliament. The members of the various parliamentary groups in the Parliament know very well what opinion they represent in the political dispute and also learn what opinions are expressed in the other parliamentary groups. They hardly notice, however, what is happening in the Council. In principle, the Commission is present in all readings, but it is so busy that it sometimes can easily lose the plot.

This is where the media group comes into play. Apart from collecting information, it will also immediately report if there is something new. This is done by means of wall newspapers and regular talk shows on current issues. In addition, short interviews can be thrillingly staged in the hallways in front of the Parliament and the Council.

Cultural policy and the Commission proposal are assessed very differently in the Member States. This is mainly because Member States have different ideas how a common cultural policy should look like with regard to content, and who should have how much influence. For similar reasons, this topic is evaluated very differently by European parties.

Report objectively where it makes sense, and emotionally where you feel it is appropriate. Never forget, however, that the next news should be written quickly, so that it will be read when it is still current!



FACTS & FIGURES

Member State	Population (in M)		Area (in km ²)		Economic performance (GDP in billion euro in 2014, forecast source: Eurostat)		Expenditure on culture (2013, in % of central government expenditure)		Expenditure on education (2013, in % of central government expenditure)	
	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Germany	1	80.5	4	357,021	1	2,849	1.9	25	9.7	22
France	2	64.7	1	668,763	3	2,060	2.6	9	9.6	23
United Kingdom	3	62	8	244,820	2	2,108	1.7	28	12.0	11
Italy	4	60.3	7	301,320	4	1,592	1.8	27	8.0	28
Spain	5	46	2	504,782	5	1,030	2.6	13	9.1	2
Poland	6	38.2	6	312,685	8	408	2.5	15	12.5	8
Romania	7	21.5	9	238,391	16	161	2.2	20	9.8	20
Netherlands	8	16.6	23	41,526	6	652	3.4	4	11.8	14
Greece	9	11.3	10	131,940	13	179	2.6	10	9.1	25
Belgium	10	10.8	24	30,510	9	393	2.4	16	11.8	13
Portugal	11	10.6	13	92,931	15	168	2.0	23	13.5	6
Czech Republic	12	10.5	15	78,866	17	144	2.2	19	9.8	21
Hungary	13	10	12	93,030	18	101	3.7	3	9.5	24
Sweden	14	9.3	3	449,964	7	412	2.0	24	12.4	10
Austria	15	8.4	14	83,858	10	323	1.9	26	9.8	19
Bulgaria	16	7.6	11	110,994	21	45	2.2	18	9.8	18
Denmark	17	5.5	22	43,094	11	247	3.2	6	12.4	9
Finland	18	5.4	5	338,432	12	201	2.5	14	10.3	17
Slovakia	19	5.4	20	48,845	19	75	3.1	7	12.2	12
Ireland	20	4.5	16	70,280	14	180	2.6	11	9.1	27
Croatia	21	4.4	19	56,542	20	46	3.1	5	10.6	16
Lithuania	22	3.2	17	65,200	23	39	2.3	17	15.7	2
Latvia	23	2.2	18	64,589	25	26	4.2	2	15.7	1
Slovenia	24	2	25	20,253	24	36	3.0	8	10.9	15
Estonia	25	1.3	21	45,226	26	20	5.4	1	15.4	4
Cyprus	26	0.8	26	9,250	27	16	2.2	21	15.7	3
Luxembourg	27	0.5	27	2,586	22	44	2.6	12	12.7	7
Malta	28	0.4	28	316	28	9	2.1	22	13.9	5
Total:	28	503.9		57,378		13,564				

DIS- CLAIMER

GIVING EUROPE A HOME – A simulation game on European cultural policy

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION



COUNCIL



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



MEDIA

