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CULT opinion on the RRF implementation

Dear Audrey,

Only 14 out of 26 Member States have included culture in their national recovery and resilience plans. The goal to earmark at least 2% of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) budget to culture – demanded by the European Parliament (EP) in its Resolution on the Cultural Recovery in Europe from 17 September 2020 and supported by the cultural and creative sectors – has been achieved at an aggregated EU level only. And the European Commission presents misleading statistics by incorporating not strictly cultural interventions such as tourism and energy efficiency of cultural buildings in the calculations.

These are the three main points I am criticizing in my draft opinion on the RRF implementation for the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT). The document, which I will publicly present on Monday 07 February in a CULT committee meeting, is now available online at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CULT-PA-703247_EN.pdf.

I am quite concerned about the above-mentioned imbalances and their consequences. This heterogeneity of public investments in culture will likely lead to a cultural recovery at different speeds across the EU, causing increased disparities within the EU's cultural ecosystem and threatening Europe's cultural diversity. I expect the Commission to take measures to prevent such worrying developments. Furthermore, I expect the Commission to recalculate and reassess the data available, presenting more detailed numbers on the achievements, in particular specifying which investments directly benefit the creation of cultural works as opposed to rather indirect investments.

With my colleagues in the CULT committee as well as with the Cultural Creators Friendship Group (CCFG), I will continue to fight for culture to get the RRF share it deserves. As I highlight in my draft opinion, culture and education as the backbone of our democracy, society and economy have a strong need to receive support from the recovery and resilience plans, also with regard to the green and digital transitions. This is in particular true for the cultural and creative sectors which were among those hit first and the hardest

by the pandemic and will be the last to recover.

In the upcoming weeks, together with my CULT colleagues I will finalize the text of the opinion before sending it to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committees responsible, asking them to incorporate our suggestions into their motion for an EP resolution.

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