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EBLIDA and EU on Culture

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Mission Statement

Taking into account the key role of libraries, archives and information sectors and professionals in:

- § securing access for all to the benefits of the information society in all formats
- § formal, informal and non-formal education at all levels, including lifelong learning
- Making culture and cultural diversity accessible, and securing their preservation*
- § supporting scientific and technical development

EBLIDA should promote and defend the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals working for the people living in Europe, by:

- § *Lobbying at European level*
- § *Encouraging and supporting national organisations lobbying at national level*

EBLIDA Policy Issues

The broad policy issues in which EBLIDA should act are:

- § Intellectual property rights [including WIPO issues]
- § Information Society issues
- § Professional Education
- § **Culture**
- § International Trade matters e.g. GATS & TRIPS

EBLIDA Monitoring Issues

Creative Industries

EBLIDA promotes the role of libraries and archives as centres of culture and learning in the knowledge society, including European policies on cultural heritage. EBLIDA will monitor the development of the EC creative industries' support programmes and on-going discussions at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

Annual Work Programme 2004 – 2005

EBLIDA Working Group on Culture

The EBLIDA Executive Committee will assess the possibility of creating a working group on culture matters.

EBLIDA Position Papers on Cultural Matters

- Ø EBLIDA Statement to the European Commission Memorandum on Lifelong Learning, *June 2001*
- Ø EBLIDA Contribution to the consideration on the subject of a single European Union Programme for Culture, *27 November 1997*
- Ø EBLIDA Recommendations on Libraries as information partners in Europe: eliminating frontiers, *November 1995*
- Ø EBLIDA Recommendations on Libraries as partners to promote Books and Reading in Europe, *11 July 1995*
- Ø EBLIDA Position Paper on the Ariane programme - European Community Action in Support of Culture, *20 October 1994*

Current Issues on Culture

- Ø UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity
There are comments by IFLA, the Dutch Library Association, Finnish Library Association, DIK Sweden, German Library Association and more....
- Ø EU Commission Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Culture 2007 programme (2007–2013)
See: http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/cult_home.htm

The so-called Third Generation Programme

A global vision

The general objective of Community action is the achievement of a common cultural area through the development of cultural cooperation in Europe. This action will thus contribute actively to the development of a European identity from the grassroots.

The Specific Objects

- § Supporting the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector
- § Encouraging the transnational circulation of works of art and artistic and cultural products
- § Promoting intercultural dialogue

The Current Status of the Procedure

- Ø Adopted by the Commission on 14 July 2004 [*COM (2004)0469*]
- Ø Document annexed to the procedure on 15 July 2004 [*SEC (2004)0954*]
- Ø Transmission to Council on 15 July 2004
- Ø Transmission to EP on 15 July 2004
- Ø Discussion at Council on 16 November 2004 [*Point 'B' Education, Youth and Culture, 2616*]

Ø Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on 23 February 2005 [*Opinion COR/2004/259/*]

Parliament Committee on Culture and Education

EU cultural committee is responsible for:

1. the cultural aspects of the European Union, and in particular:
 - a) improving the knowledge and dissemination of culture
 - b) the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity
 - c) the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage, cultural exchanges and artistic creation
2. the Union's education policy, including the European higher education area, the promotion of the system of European schools and lifelong learning;
3. audiovisual policy and the cultural and educational aspects of the information society;
4. youth policy and the development of a sports and leisure policy;
5. information and media policy;
6. Cooperation with third countries in the areas of culture and education and relations with the relevant international organisations and institutions.

The CULT Committee has recently begun work on the Commission's proposals for the next generation of education, culture, youth and media programmes. The Rapporteur for Culture (€ 408 million for seven years proposed by the Commission) is MEP Graca Moura.

The President of Parliament - Chair of the Temporary Committee on Financial Perspectives - has written to the chairmen of the permanent committees suggesting that the legislative process can continue, but there should be no discussion in plenary of the budgets of future multi-annual programmes until after the Temporary Committee has reported [see Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Financial Perspectives 2007–2013, *COM (2004)0487 of 14 July 2004*]. The Temporary Committee will report to plenary on 11 May 2005 and the CULT Committee can then proceed to adopt reports on the four proposals for co decided programmes. Parliament's first readings on these proposals might take place in September 2005.

The Council will then have to try to reach common positions. Absence of an agreement within the Council on the next Financial Perspective would cause a long delay before these common positions were agreed and this would in turn slow the start of the new generation of programmes.

The Luxembourg and UK Presidencies will make every effort to reach an agreement on the new generation of Culture Programme 2007–2013. The decision on the programme can not be taken before the budget is adopted.

EBLIDA Concern

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"The EU's budget for culture is no larger than that of a medium sized city or a famous opera house" European Cultural Fund

The budget for Culture 2007 programme is € 34 million per year (0, 70 cents per citizen means € 315 million per year to culture! EFAH in partnership with the European Cultural Foundation launched the *"70 cents for culture" Campaign* in the European Parliament on 15 March 2005.

Read more at:

<http://www.eurocult.org/>

<http://www.efah.org/en/70cents.htm>