

The Decisive Deal

“A Soul for Europe”
and the
Cultural Coalition for a Citizens’ Europe
in a collaborative work process towards
**A European Resolution on Culture: For Values,
Democracy and Citizenship**

WORKING DOCUMENT

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Chapter 1: Summary

“A Soul for Europe” invites citizens to work together with their elected representatives in its programme [A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens’ Europe](#) to raise awareness of Europe as a cultural project. “A Soul for Europe” invites you to join us in a collaborative work process towards a European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship.

Firstly, the launch of this discussion paper intends to continue a process of debate on how to further include culture into the European integration process. Secondly, the Cultural Coalition will utilize the outcomes of this debate to agree on a clear agenda and actions proposals called for by citizens on how culture and Europe can further develop their mutually beneficial relationship in the next 5 year political cycle. The ideal final outcome of the process would be the drafting and adopting of a real resolution in the European Parliament during the next political term.

Initial proposals to ignite the debate from “A Soul for Europe” and the Cultural Coalition for a Citizens’ Europe include:

Europe as a Cultural Project

Political parties and elected representatives should promote the cultural dimension of the European project, promoting “European cultural values” as a building block of Europe.

A Cultural Commitment to Europe

Political parties and elected representatives should foster a dialogue between the European Union and the Member States about the development of a European standard for expanding culture’s potential and responsibility towards the European project in the Member States.

The Cultural Component of Legislation

Member States should integrate a cultural component into each of their policy areas following the example of the Lisbon Treaty, Article 167, paragraph 4 of: “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.”

Political parties and elected representatives should support the European Union and Member States in adding the cultural component to all policy areas where it is currently lacking, including citizenship and external affairs.

A European Commitment to Culture

Political parties and elected representatives should foster a dialogue between the European Union and the Member States about the comparable and equal engagement for a basic level of policy and budgetary commitment to culture and the arts in the Member States as a natural extension of the previous recommendations.

Including a Cultural Component in all Legislation on Citizenship

Political parties and elected representatives should consider the cultural sector as a prime tool to develop positive civic values and European citizenship.

Next Steps

The work process towards a European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship is meant to be collaborative, gathering as much input as possible from European citizens. This paper should be considered as “food for thought” and will be discussed both online and in the framework of all Cultural Coalition activities over the next year. The ideas from the discussions will be gathered and integrated to make the text a strong proposal.

The next stage will be launched with the conclusions of a major joint project on 3 March: the [Berlin Conference 2014](#), produced under the High Patronage of the European Parliament and with the participation of the leaders of the main political parties of Europe. From there we envision that the document will be taken up as a proposal for a resolution in the European Parliament and it will eventually inspire action in the European Council and the Member States as well as the local level. The outcomes of the entire process of development in 2013 and early 2014 will be taken up in this debate and the final concepts and visions will be launched just prior to the elections.

Chapter 2: Context

A Call to Action

Participation and support from both politicians, in their task of representing the interests of European citizens and from citizens themselves by voicing their opinions on key matters of democracy, are clear requirements for the continued prosperity and further development of Europe.

The notions of a political Europe and an economic Europe have long reigned as the prominent visions of Europe put forth by our leaders. Europe is not just a political and economic entity but is bound by cultural values. The interests of European citizens, advocated and supported by their elected representatives, should recognize the cultural values that bind the diverse citizenry together. “Il nous faut donner une âme à l’ Europe¹,” as Jacques Delors stated and from which the “A Soul for Europe” initiative took its name ten years ago. It is time for us all to mobilize Europe’s cultural capabilities, to take advantage of Europe’s emotional potential to tie Europeans in the construction of a common public space.

The notion of citizenship, and furthermore of Europe, are cultural constructs. The European project is bound by cultural values that bring together its diverse citizens and unite the continent in its diversity through values which have been enshrined in the treaties of the European Union. We must work to recognise and realize the full potential of Europe’s cultural foundation. It is time to give more credit to the role of our common cultural values in the European project, bringing the concept of Europe as a cultural project to the fore.

Politicians are invited to join “A Soul for Europe²” in its 2013-2014 programme, A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens’ Europe³, in its efforts to raise awareness of Europe as a cultural project. We will work to collaboratively draft and to introduce a common agreement on the efficient use and development of cultural resources in all legislative bodies of Europe, reaching a Decisive Deal by introducing a European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship.

The proposed collaborative work process towards European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship is a spark to ignite a debate between European politicians, Member States, artists, intellectuals, and all citizens on policy proposals through culture. The debate will aim towards a final text that can be adapted into the party platforms of political parties at the European and Member State levels, be presented as a resolution by the European Parliament and backed by the Council.

In this document the Cultural Coalition for a Citizens’ Europe will present clear proposals on deepening the cultural component of all policies that can be developed with the European political parties and the European institutions as discussion points during the 2014 elections and in the European institutions following the elections as newly elected officials begin a new 5-year political cycle. The concepts developed should be pertinent and lobbied for from the European Institutions to the local level.

A Clear Need

It was only in the Treaty on European Union⁴ signed in Maastricht in 1992 that “Culture” was recognized as one of the working fields and programs of the European Union. The Treaty of Maastricht gave for the first time a legal basis to European Union cultural actions aimed at “encouraging, supporting and supplementing” the actions of the Member States, “while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore”. The article defined the European Union’s competence as “complementary”, which means that the power to legislate regulatory provisions of the Member states was excluded. This provision remains unchanged in the Treaty of Lisbon⁵ signed in 2007, where Article 167 was dedicated to culture for Europe.

When we look at culture in Europe we first see the importance of cultural values, which the Lisbon Treaty clearly recognizes. In Article 2 it states “The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the

¹ “We must give a soul to Europe”

² Please visit <http://www.asoulforeurope.eu/> for more information.

³ Please visit <http://www.asoulforeurope.eu/cultural-coalition> for more information.

⁴ [Treaty on European Union](#), Official Journal of the European Communities, No C 191, Volume 35, 29 July 1992.

⁵ [Treaty of Lisbon](#), Official Journal of the European Union, No C 306, Volume 50, 17 December 2007.

Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail”⁶ and in Article 3 “The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples.”⁷

Culture is this and more. In addition to the view of “cultural values” adopted in the legislation, culture is also understood as cultural activities and their impacts in all areas of society such as urbanism, economy, ecology, social cohesion, etc. For this reason, the European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship presented by “A Soul for Europe” and its Cultural Coalition for a Citizens’ Europe concentrates its plea on both views. Therefore, we will always speak about “cultural activities and the arts” on the one hand and “cultural values” on the other.

⁶ [Treaty on European Union](#) as it results from the amendments introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, Official Journal of the European Union, No C 326, Volume 55, 26 October 2012.

⁷ Idem;

Chapter 3: A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe

"A Soul for Europe" and the Cultural Coalition

From bases in Amsterdam, Belgrade, Berlin, Brussels, Porto and Tbilisi the "A Soul for Europe" initiative is building an international network of European cities and regions, the cultural sector, business, and European policy-makers. The initiative is supported by an [Advisory Board](#) and a cross-party [Parliamentarian Working Group](#) in the European Parliament, which provides a link between the work of the civil society initiative and that of political decision-makers. At the very heart of the "A Soul for Europe" initiative is the [Strategy Group](#): 55 civil society actors from 21 countries from the areas of culture, politics, business, research and media. The Strategy Group is responsible for the conceptual development and dissemination of the idea of "A Soul for Europe" through projects.

The aim of "A Soul for Europe" is to implement concrete steps and conduct projects to ensure that Europe makes greater and better use of its cultural assets. In the process, culture should be utilized more than in the past as a strategic factor for development – at the local, regional, national and European level. All fields of policy beyond the cultural sector, from social to foreign affairs, should include a cultural component. This means that we are lobbying for Europe with the means of culture. We believe that it is possible to create a Europe of the Europeans, rather than just a Europe of institutions and regulations, and that this aim can be implemented based on the potential of European culture.

A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe is a new civil society programme spearheaded by "A Soul for Europe" that aims to strengthen participation of citizens from all sectors of society in building a better Europe. It involves citizens, including politicians, artists, intellectuals, and civil society leaders, in shaping the future Europe. It aims to trigger thinking, to raise visibility, and to propose actions about culture's contribution to a citizens' Europe. In a true multi-directional process of engagement it aims to empower citizens in the EU integration process. The initiative is supported by the EU programme "Citizens for Europe."

Existing Support

There is a strong need in Europe, in particular for the institutions of the European Union, national and local leaders to have a new narrative on the future of Europe, for tools that turn the European Union into a citizens' project based on their cultural competencies. There is ample political opportunity to change this through the existing partnerships of "A Soul for Europe" and its Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe. If we look to the work of the European Parliament in the "A Soul for Europe" Advisory Board⁸, we can see an increasingly important form of collaboration: that of direct working groups formed with individuals from civil society and elected representatives. The Advisory Board and Parliamentarian Working Group⁹ are the mechanisms through which the "A Soul for Europe" initiative and the Cultural Coalition elaborate ways of joint action at the European level. It thereby serves as a bridge between civil society and political decision-makers. We must capitalize on the willingness of our elected representatives to work directly with citizens on developing the political framework for our future by actively participating in the process.

If we also look at the 2012 State of the Union speech given by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso¹⁰ and at the structured dialogue between the European Union and the cultural sector, we see a true willingness to realize culture's full potential in the development of Europe's future.

The opportunities to create change exist, but these efforts need new energy and concrete forms of implementation. The European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship would serve as the road map for joint action of politicians and civil society at all levels: especially the national and European. European level politicians should strive to create a political framework that will support the development of such a narrative on Europe's future. This vision at the European level will then be legally adapted into national legislation where the primary competency for culture currently lies.

⁸ Please visit <http://www.asouloforeurope.eu/about-us/advisory-board> for more information.

⁹ Please visit <http://www.asouloforeurope.eu/about-us/parliamentarian-working-group> for more information.

¹⁰ President of the European Commission 'State of the Union 2012 Address', September 12, 2012.

5 Key Actions

The key action points that emerged throughout our discussions with citizens across Europe that will serve as the guiding line for content development and action proposals are:

1. Creating new narratives which help us re-imagine and recreate Europe
2. Redefining democracy and citizenship in Europe and raising awareness on their development
3. Developing a new model for collaboration based on 3 Action Nodes: Civil Society (organisations and individuals), Artists and Intellectuals, and Politicians that connects policy makers to citizens in new ways.
4. Involving politicians at all levels throughout Europe in the Coalition
5. Translating the narrative into policy proposals to present to European leaders in preparation for the 2014 election cycle

How can this be achieved?

"A Soul for Europe" will lead the Cultural Coalition in its work with the political leaders of the European Union as part of the European Parliamentary elections in 2014 to develop stronger sections devoted to the cultural dimension of all policies in the political party platforms and then to take this resolution up as a working document in the next political cycle of the European Union. We will present this proposal to the European political parties to address in their party platforms, asking them to highlight the important role of culture for a citizens' Europe. The European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship is meant to be a collaborative process gathering as much input from European citizens as possible. The document will be discussed in the framework of all Cultural Coalition activities over the next year and the ideas will be gathered and integrated to make the proposal even stronger.

The Cultural Coalition will meet to take stock of the progress and to plan the next steps in autumn 2013 following presentations and discussions on the European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship in public and with the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Council of the European Union.

The final document will be launched with the conclusions of a major joint project on 3 March: the [Berlin Conference 2014](#), produced under the High Patronage of the European Parliament and with the participation of the leaders of the main political parties of Europe. From there we envision that the document will be taken up as a proposal for a resolution in the European Parliament and it will eventually inspire action in the European Council and the Member States as well as the local level. The outcomes of the entire process of development in 2013 and early 2014 will be taken up in this debate and the final concepts and visions will be launched just prior to the elections.

The European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship process is concrete and will formulate its actions on three fronts. Our triple plea will work:

1. Towards European political parties and politicians strongly involved in the EP elections in 2014 and concerned in the formation and the functioning of the EC. The proposal is clear, take the resolution in your program, manifesto for the EP elections 2014 as one of the engagements you as a party and you as a politician take to realize in the new legislation during the 2014/2019 cycle.
2. Towards the newly elected EP in 2014 and then installed EC to organize the decision process for a European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship.
3. Towards civil society groups and individuals who are called upon to be aware of cultural forces as an important factor in the future development of Europe; hence to incorporate accordingly cultural aspects in their understanding of Europe and their role as active European citizens.

Chapter 4: Actions towards the European Political Parties

While some of the European political parties discuss “culture and the arts” and “European cultural values” in their existing party platforms, forward-thinking proposals to build Europe’s cultural dimension are lacking. This proposal of a collaborative work process towards a European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship aims to be such a proposal, integrated as one of the action points in the new party platforms in the 2014 European Parliamentary elections. Current platforms certainly underline the importance of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, the respect for languages diversity, which is an important first step. But, the role of culture remains vague and has not historically represented a major working area developed through the party platforms.

While the Cultural Coalition recognizes that the European Union cannot currently pass binding legislation in the area of culture, it will begin with this step while it aims towards the future goal of making culture one of the shared competences of the European Union, recognizing the value culture has in uniting citizens across Europe at the treaty level.

What is lacking in the existing platforms?

The existing references to culture in the political party platforms at the European level are lacking concrete proposals that lead to actions. Resting on the laurels of promoting cultural diversity and European cultural heritage will not offer enriching visions for the future of Europe. The European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship proposes the development of a European tool, a European instrument, to serve as the basis for discussions entering the new European Union political cycle in 2014.

The European political parties should work to adopt the following topics as key working strands in their election platforms. Furthermore “A Soul for Europe” and the Cultural Coalition will work with the political parties following their adoption of these concepts into their platforms to realize the proposals through legislation.

“A Soul for Europe” and the Cultural Coalition for a Citizens’ Europe propose that political parties adopt the following into their election platforms:

- **Europe as a Cultural Project**

The (party) will promote the cultural dimension of the European project as a necessary complement to the political and economic dimensions. In addition to promoting “European cultural values” as a building block of Europe, the (party) will consider “cultural activities” in this vision. To further develop the understanding of Europe’s common cultural values, it will support new and existing programs that underline exchanges and conversation on these values.

- **A Cultural Commitment to Europe**

The (party) will foster a dialogue between the European Union and the Member States about the development of a European standard for expanding culture’s potential and responsibility towards the European project in the Member States.

- **The Cultural Component of Legislation**

The (party) will request that Member States integrate a cultural component into each of their policy areas following the example of the Lisbon Treaty, Article 167, paragraph 4 of: “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.”

- **A European Commitment to Culture**

The (party) will foster a dialogue between the European Union and the Member States about the creation of a basic level of commitment to culture and the arts in the Member States as a natural extension of the previous recommendations.

It will work with the European Union and all Member States to reach an agreement on the minimum percent of the budget allocated to cultural programs and activities as a percent of the GDP, reflecting the responsibility they bear towards culture.

In 2011, the *Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe* found that the average spending for culture as a percent of GDP was only 0.58%¹¹ while a Eurostat study found that 92% of Europeans consider that culture and cultural exchanges should have an important place in the EU.¹²

An important outcome of this process will be the streamlining of the definition of culture in Member States and a European monitoring system to track the development and successes. This process will be similar to the efforts to secure support and to monitor research and development set out by the European Union at 3% of the Member States' GDP¹³, (see other examples on supranational spending mechanisms and similar efforts by NATO¹⁴ and the UN¹⁵).

The creation of this instrument alone adds immense value to the further development of Europe's cultural resources. The ESSnet-Culture Report found that "the desire to have comparable data on culture is indeed long lived. To achieve this aim it is important to have a shared set of definitions and concepts of what is meant by culture and by public (and private) spending on it."¹⁶

- **Including a Cultural Component in all Legislation on Citizenship**

The (party) will highlight that access and participation in culture develops community and a sense of belonging. It will emphasize that culture and cultural actors are strong mechanisms for the development of civic values.

The (party) will call upon the European Union to consider the cultural sector as a prime tool to develop positive civic values and European citizenship, and asks the European Union and Member States to add the cultural component to all sectors of legislation on citizenship where it is currently lacking, including external affairs.

A European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship

The (party) will present a European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship to be approved in the newly elected European Parliament in 2014 and submitted to the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

The European Resolution on Culture for Values, Democracy and Citizenship will create an equal and standard level of attention devoted to the cultural dimension of all policies in all Member States of the European Union, addressing the essential role of culture in the European project in all of its political areas. This standard level of attention will underscore Europe as a cultural project, establishing the legal obligation to include the cultural component in all sectors of legislation.

¹¹ "Monitoring Public Cultural Expenditure in Selected European Countries 2000-2010/11." *Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 May 2013. <<http://www.culturalpolicies.net/web/statistics-funding.php?aid=232>>.

¹² *Cultural Statistics*. Publication no. KS-32-10-374-EN-C. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2011. Web. <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-32-10-374/EN/KS-32-10-374-EN.PDF>.

¹³ "The present Communication aims at launching a debate on the ways and means of reaching the objectives for R&D investment. It identifies the wide range of policy areas which must be mobilised in a coherent manner. It sets out in each area the main objectives to be pursued either by intensifying actions already underway in the context of the Lisbon strategy and the European Knowledge Area or by undertaking new initiatives. Even where action has been launched and agreed at European level, more needs to be done to ensure that it is delivering results at national and local levels. At the same time, it is recognised that the diversity of situations in Member States and Candidate Countries must allow for a differentiated policy response."

"MORE RESEARCH FOR EUROPE: Towards 3% of GDP, COM(2002) 499 final, 11.9.2002, http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/com3percent_en.pdf.

¹⁴ "History of the 0.7% ODA Target." *DAC Journal* 3.4 (2002): III-9-II-11. *OECD*. Web. <<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/45539274.pdf>>.

¹⁵ "The 0.7% Target: An In-depth Look." *UN Millennium Project | Press Archive*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 May 2013. <<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/press/07.htm>>.

¹⁶ *European Statistical System Network on Culture*. Rep. ESSnet-CULTURE, Sept. 2012. Web. <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/!PORTAL.wwpob_page.show?docname=2920315.PDF>.



Contact

For more information on events, projects and partners please visit our website

www.asoulforeurope.eu.

You can contact us at

mail@asoulforeurope.eu.

A Soul for Europe EEIG
c/o European House for Culture
Place Eugène Flagey 18
1050 Brussels
Belgium

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