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### **INFORMATION NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Nomination of Tartu for the European Capital of Culture 2024  
*- Information from the Estonian delegation*

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Estonian delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under ‘Any other business’ for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 21-22 November 2019.

**Nomination of Tartu for the European Capital of Culture 2024**

Following an open selection process in compliance with the rules foreseen in Decision No 445/2014/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 April 2014, the city of **Tartu in Estonia** has been officially nominated European Capital of Culture for the year 2024. A city awarded the European Capital of Culture title receives considerable international attention from the moment of its selection and extending well beyond the year of the title. It has a responsibility to uphold the reputation of the European Capital of Culture brand for the benefit of those previous title holders and future ones. It is also responsible to EU institutions and bodies as this is an EU initiative.

Tartu is the second biggest city in Estonia, the centre for Southern Estonia and the site of our Alma Mater – University of Tartu. The leitmotif of Tartu 2024 is “Arts of Survival”. The city involves into the programming 19 municipalities of Southern Estonia (located close to the Russian and Latvian borders). The “Arts of Survival” concept seeks to make nature matter more in humanity, humanity matter more in arts, arts matter more in Europe and Europe matter more in the world for the sake of human survival on a surviving planet. The programme is based on crucial European (and world) themes, such as spreading more eco-friendly lifestyles in European cities and tackling intergenerational dialogue and mental health issues. Tartu will approach these topics through interaction and co-creation with different European partners in the culture field featuring a strong intercultural dialogue dimension. The overall ambition is to redefine the cultural identities of smaller cities and rural areas for a greater impact in Europe. Tartu, due to its location also plans to build bridges between East & West within the EU.

Although the Council is not involved in the formal designation of the European Capitals of Culture, Estonia welcomes the opportunity of the Council meeting to briefly inform about the concept developed by the city of Tartu for the European Capital of Culture 2024 title.