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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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CULT 157  
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**NOTE**

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from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Partial summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament's <b>Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)</b> , held in Brussels on 26 and 27 November 2012 (items 3 and 6 on the agenda)

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The meeting was chaired by Ms PACK (EPP, DE).

***Item 3***

**Exchange of views with Ms Neelie Kroes, Member of the European Commission responsible for the Digital agenda**

In her introductory remarks, Ms Kroes underlined that the creative industry, which represents more than 5 million jobs and 2.5 % of the EU's GDP, had an important economic, social and cultural role to play in supporting the European economy and huge potential to contribute to European society and democracy. She stressed, in connection with the changing digital age and the creation of the true Digital Single Market, the importance of interconnected areas such as EU audiovisual policy, cultural heritage, a copyright system and the freedom and pluralism of the media.

The Commissioner emphasised that while the internet had changed the whole media sector, intertwining with traditional broadcast media and creating new challenges and opportunities for the creative industry in terms of growth and job creation, there was still a need for a common European solution in order to take advantage of benefits for creators and consumers and to anticipate the economic, technological and legal implications. In this respect, Ms Kroes outlined the need for a digital infrastructure, fast networks and broadband as well as pervasive cloud computing. Finally, she also praised the sustained support for research and innovation and mentioned the creation of the Connecting Europe Facility, which would provide infrastructure investment at European level. Furthermore, she announced that the Commission was currently preparing the Green Paper on Connected TV (available by early next year), which would concentrate on implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and, in particular, on advertising, the protection of minors online and the promotion of European works. Additionally, she raised the issue of the European copyright system, which should ensure fair remuneration for artists but also provide easier access to online content for consumers. Regarding access to cultural heritage in general, she mentioned Europeana, which aims to preserve the cultural content of millions of digitised items from European museums, libraries, archives and multi-media collections by making them available online.

On a separate issue, Ms Kroes emphasised the importance of the freedom and pluralism of the media as one of the essential foundations of the European Union and pointed out the major difficulties encountered in some European countries in this respect. She also expressed some caution on the different VAT rates applying in Member States for digitalised newspapers and for those printed on paper.

She concluded by stressing that although great progress had been made in Europe in terms of access to digital cultural resources online and high-speed broadband, some barriers remained and blocked, in her opinion, the free flow of online services as well as accessibility to audiovisual heritage. In this respect, more effort was needed. She invited the European Parliament to participate actively in the construction of a genuine digital Single Market and informed the Committee that the review of the Digital Agenda for Europe would be published at the beginning of 2013.

In the subsequent debate, Committee members raised the following issues:

- Connected TV services: Ms HIRSCH (ALDE, DE); Ms KAMMERVERT (S&D, DE);
- protection of minors in the digital world: Ms SANCHEZ-SCHMID (EPP, FR); Ms McCLARKIN (ECR, UK); Ms COSTA (S&D, IT);

- a reasonable balance between copyrights on the one hand and digital freedom on the other: Ms KAMMERVERT (S&D, DE); Ms SANCHEZ-SCHMID (EPP, FR);
- different fiscal treatment of newspapers with regard to their format (printed or electronic) and means of delivery (online or offline) in different Member States: Ms SANCHEZ-SCHMID (EPP, FR); Ms COSTA (S&D, IT); Ms PACK (EPP, DE);
- cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe: Ms SANCHEZ-SCHMID (EPP, FR);
- the orphan works directive: Ms KAMMERVERT (S&D, DE);
- the costs of digitising Europe's cultural heritage: Ms BENARAB-ATTOU (Greens/EFA, FR);
- media freedom in Hungary: Ms HIRSCH (ALDE, DE).

Reacting to comments and questions, Ms Kroes said that the European Union needed a framework to support the digital revolution and to enable it to stay globally competitive. The Commissioner then emphasised a few key priorities, such as greater interoperability, internet security, quality access to audiovisual works through connected devices, more investment in research and development, and the preservation of orphan works, recognising their urgent nature.

### ***Item 6***

#### **"ERASMUS FOR ALL" - The Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport. CULT/7/07906**

Rapporteur: Doris PACK (EPP, DE).

The draft report, as amended (more than thousand amendments), was adopted with 23 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

The draft legislative resolution was adopted with 21 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

The draft legislative report as a whole was adopted with 21 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.