



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 28 March 2017
(OR. en)

7018/17

CULT 23

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Designation of the cities of Timisoara (Romania), Elefsina (Greece) and Novi Sad (Serbia) as European Capitals of Culture in 2021

Delegations will find attached letters from the Romanian and Greek ministers of culture regarding the designation of their respective cities, Timisoara in Romania (Annex I) and Elefsina in Greece (Annex II), as European Capitals of Culture in 2021.

In addition, delegations will find attached a letter from the Commission regarding the designation of the city of Novi Sad in Serbia as the third European Capital of Culture in 2021 (Annex III).



Ministry of Culture

The Minister



Mr. Martin SCHULTZ
President of the European Parliament
European Parliament

Mr. Marek MAĎARIČ
Minister of culture of Slovakia

Mr. Tibor NAVRACSICS
Commissioner in charge of culture
European Commission

Mr. Markku MARKKULA
President of the Committee of the Regions
Committee of the Regions

Dear Sirs,

Decision 445/2014/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 (hereinafter referred to as "the Decision") lays down the procedure for the designation of cities to the European Capital of Culture title.

Romania is one of the two Member States entitled to host a European Capital of Culture in 2021 together with Serbia as potential candidate.

The following cities in Romania replied to the call for submission of applications published by my services on 10 December 2014: Alba Iulia, Arad, Bacău, Baia Mare, Brăila, Braşov, Bucureşti, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iaşi, Sfântu Gheorghe, Suceava, Târgu Mureş and Timişoara.

The panel of independent experts established to carry out the selection procedure met on 7–10 December 2015, for a pre-selection meeting and short-listed the following candidate cities: Baia Mare, Bucureşti, Cluj-Napoca and Timişoara. The panel met again for a final selection meeting on 15 and 16 September 2016 to examine the revised and completed applications of the pre-selected cities and recommended that Timişoara be awarded the title of European Capital of Culture 2021 in Romania.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Decision, Romania designates the city of Timişoara to hold the title, on the basis of the recommendation contained in the selection report of the panel.

According to the selection report the cultural strategy of the city of Timişoara is comprehensive and was built up on the broad community participation as an interaction of the projects and objectives matching the intended outcomes.

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The city of Timișoara proposed the cultural program under the dynamic theme “Shine your Light - Light up your city” and presented an interesting structure as a journey with power stations and territories. The proposed program is strong; it tackles edgy European themes and has a deep digital and audience development focus.

The panel was impressed that the central focus of Timișoara candidacy was to put people - cultural and creative agents, audiences and decision makers, throughout the project. The people will be the agents of change that will define the overall objective of the ECoC action. They are to set up the opportunity for a strong legacy of the capacity building programme the *Power station* by linking the long term impact of the ECoC with urban development.

Another positive element of the bid is the high level of support and engagement of the different communities' leaders and artists in this multilingual and multicultural city. Over 75% of the projects will be co-produced with cross-border and international partners and the proposed programme has strengths in addressing European themes.

As a result, I hereby notify the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, and the Committee of the Regions of that designation.

Yours sincerely,

Corina ȘUTEU,
Minister of Culture





**HELLENIC MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS
Minister's Office**

Mpoumpoulinas 20-22
106 82, Athens
Greece

Athens, 4th January 2017
Ref.: ΥΠΠΟΑ/ΔΔΣΕΕ/ΤΕΕ/5575/175

To the kind attention of

Dr. Owen Bonnici
Minister for Justice, Culture
and Local Government
30, Old Treasury Street
Valletta VLT 2000
Malta

Dear colleague,

The Decision No 445/2014/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 (hereinafter referred to as "the Decision") lays down the procedure for the designation of cities to the European Capital of Culture title.

The Hellenic Republic is one of the two Member States entitled to host a European Capital of Culture in 2021.

The following cities replied to the call for submission of applications published by our services on 9th December 2014: Corfu, Delphi, Elefsina (Eleusis), Ioannina, Kalamata, Larissa, Lesbos (Mytilene), Messolonghi, Piraeus, Rhodes, Salamina (Salamis), Samos, Tripolis and Volos.

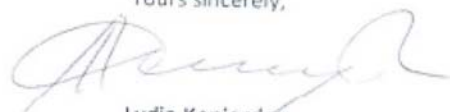
The panel of independent experts established to carry out the selection procedure met from 22nd to 26th February 2016 for a pre-selection meeting and short-listed Elefsina, Kalamata and Rhodes. The panel met again for a final selection meeting on 10th and 11th November 2016 to examine the revised and completed applications of the pre-selected cities and recommended that Elefsina be awarded the title of European Capital of Culture 2021 in the Hellenic Republic.

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In accordance with Article 11 of the Decision, the Hellenic Republic designates the city of Elefsina to hold the title, on the basis of the recommendation contained in the selection report of the panel. The ECOC bid is under the title of "Transition to EU-phoria". It demonstrated a clear awareness of the city in both European and local contexts. It was rooted in the life of citizens with a strong participatory element from engagement in development. It has a good artistic quality and could act as laboratory, a prototype, for a small post-industrial city transformation with culture as a key element.

As a result, I hereby notify the Council of that designation.

Yours sincerely,



Lydia Koniordou
Minister of Culture and Sports



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Tibor Navracsics
Head of Cabinet

Brussels,
Ares (2017)

Excellency,

I would be grateful if you would ensure delivery of the attached letter from Commissioner Tibor Navracsics to the Honourable Dr. Owen BONNICI, Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government.

Yours sincerely,


Adrienn Király

H.E. Neil KERR
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta (Coreper I)
Rue Archimède 25
1000 Bruxelles

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Tiber Navraacsics
Member of the European Commission

Brussels,
Ares(2017)

Dear Minister,

Started in 1985, European Capitals of Culture have developed into one of the most ambitious cultural projects in Europe and become one of the best known – and most appreciated – initiatives of the European Union, producing cultural, social and economic benefits for the cities hosting the event.

In April 2014, the European Parliament and the Council, in adopting Decision No 445/2014/EU, opened this very prestigious action to candidate countries or potential candidates for EU membership, as a way to provide a further platform to reinforce the links between the European Union and the cultural operators and citizens of those countries.

I am pleased to inform you that on 23 January 2017, in accordance with Article 11 of the Decision, the Commission formally designated the city of Novi Sad in Serbia to hold the title in 2021, on the basis of the recommendation contained in the panel's selection report. In its report, the expert panel considers that the bid of Novi Sad best complies with the objectives and criteria of Decision No 445/2014/EU. In particular it considers that the bid of Novi Sad has strong points in reflecting the contemporary realities of the city and its opportunities, as well as in taking an open approach to the issues of migration and post-conflict, both issues having a strong European dimension.

Dr Owen Bonnici
Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government
30, Old Treasury Street
Valletta VLT 2000
Malta

Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels

As a result, I hereby notify the Council of the European Union of that designation.

I can assure you that the services of the Commission will do their best to help Novi Sad in preparing for the title-year as part of the monitoring phase, which will formally start next autumn and continue until 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.
