



Brussels, 20 June 2017
(OR. en)

10329/17

Interinstitutional File:
2016/0186 (COD)

CODEC 1059
CULT 88
AELE 54
EEE 31
PE 46

INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 - Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading (Strasbourg, 12 to 15 June 2017)

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of Article 294 of the TFEU and the joint declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure ¹, a number of informal contacts have taken place between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to reaching an agreement on this dossier at first reading, thereby avoiding the need for second reading and conciliation.

In this context, the rapporteur, Santiago FISAS AYXELÀ (EPP, ES) presented a compromise amendment to the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033, on behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education (amendment 19). This amendment had been agreed during the informal contacts referred to above.

¹ OJ C 145, 30.6.2007, p.5

In addition, the EFD political group tabled one amendment aimed at rejecting the Commission proposal (amendment 20).

II. VOTE

When it voted on 13 June 2017, the Parliament adopted the compromise amendment (amendment 19) to the proposal for a Decision. No other amendment was adopted.

The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto².

The Parliament's position reflects what had been previously agreed between the institutions. The Council should therefore be in a position to approve the Parliament's position.

The act would then be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the Parliament's position.

² The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in ***bold and italics***. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

P8_TA(2017)0252

European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 June 2017 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 (COM(2016)0400 – C8-0223/2016 – 2016/0186(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2016)0400),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 167(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0223/2016),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 69f(4) of its Rules of Procedure and the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 24 May 2017 to approve Parliament’s position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education (A8-0061/2017),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P8_TC1-COD(2016)0186

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 13 June 2017 with a view to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2017/... of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 167 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure³,

Whereas:

³ Position of the European Parliament of 13 June 2017.

- (1) Decision No 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ aims *at safeguarding and promoting the richness and the diversity of cultures in Europe and at highlighting the common features they share while increasing citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area, thus encouraging mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue, and bringing common cultural heritage to the fore*. That Decision also aims *at fostering the contribution of culture to the long-term development of cities, which can involve their surrounding areas*, in accordance with their respective strategies and priorities, *with a view to supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*.
- (2) *European Capitals of Culture make a crucial contribution to promoting the values of the Union.*
- (3) *Networking activities should be further encouraged between past, present and future cities holding the title of European Capital of Culture, in order to foster the exchange of experiences and good practices.*
- (4) Decision No 445/2014/EU provides that only cities from a Member State, from a candidate country or from a potential candidate, or, subject to the conditions laid down in that Decision, from a country that accedes to the Union, have access to the Union action for the European Capitals of Culture (the “action”).

⁴ Decision No 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 and repealing Decision No 1622/2006/EC (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014, p. 1).

- (5) *With a view to reinforcing the cultural links between European Free Trade Association countries which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area⁵ ('EFTA/EEA countries') and the Union, the action should also be open, subject to conditions, to cities from those countries in accordance with that Agreement.*
- (6) However, during the period covered by **■** Decision *No 445/2014/EU*, namely from 2020 to 2033, for reasons of equity with cities in the Member States that *participate in the action*, cities in EFTA/EEA countries should only be allowed to participate in one competition for the title. *For reasons of equity with the Member States*, each EFTA/EEA country should only be allowed to host the title once during that period, *as is the case for candidate countries and potential candidates*.
- (7) *As the calls for submission of applications need to be published at the latest six years before the year of the title*, a candidate country, potential candidate or EFTA/EEA country should host the European Capital of Culture in 2028 instead of 2027 so as to *allow* those countries to negotiate their participation in the Union programme supporting culture *subsequent to the Creative Europe Programme* for the period 2021 to 2027.
- (8) Decision **No 445/2014/EU** should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

⁵ *OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3.*

Article 1

Decision No 445/2014/EU is amended as follows:

(1) Article 3 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

“2. The number of cities holding the title in a given year (‘the year of the title’) shall not exceed three.

The title shall be awarded each year to a maximum of one city in each of the two Member States appearing in the calendar set out in the Annex (‘the calendar’) and, in the relevant years, to one city from a European Free Trade Association country which is party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (‘EFTA/EEA country’), a candidate country or a potential candidate, or to one city from a country that accedes to the Union in the circumstances set out in paragraph 5.”;

(b) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

“4. Cities in EFTA/EEA countries, *in* candidate countries and *in* potential candidates which participate in the Creative Europe Programme or in the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture at the date of publication of the call for submission of applications referred to in Article 10(2), may apply for the title for one year in the framework of an open competition organised in accordance with the calendar *set out in the Annex*.

Cities in EFTA/EEA countries, in candidate countries and in potential candidates shall only be allowed to participate in one competition during the period from 2020 to 2033.

Each EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate shall only be allowed to host the title once during the period from 2020 to 2033.”;

(2) Article 10 is amended as follows:

(a) the title is replaced by the following:

“Pre-selection and selection in EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries *and* potential candidates”;

(b) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

”1. The Commission shall be responsible for the organisation of the competition between cities in EFTA/EEA countries, in candidate countries and in potential candidates.”;

(c) in paragraph 6, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:

“6. The panel shall issue a selection report on the applications of the shortlisted candidate cities together with a recommendation for the designation of a maximum of one city in one EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate.”;

- (3) In Article 11, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:
- “2. In the case of EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, the Commission shall designate one city to hold the title in the relevant years, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the selection report of the panel, and shall notify, no later than four years before the year of the title, the European Parliament, the Council and the Committee of the Regions of that designation.”;
- (4) Article 13 is amended as follows:
- (a) in paragraph 2, the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:
- “The Member State, EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate concerned may nominate an observer to attend those meetings.”;
- (b) in paragraph 3, the second *subparagraph* is replaced by the following:
- “The panel shall transmit its monitoring reports to the Commission, **■** to the designated cities and *their* Member *States, as well as to the designated cities and the relevant* EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate.”;
- (5) The Annex is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at ...,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

ANNEX
CALENDAR

2020	Croatia	Ireland	
2021	Romania	Greece	Candidate country or potential candidate
2022	Lithuania	Luxembourg	
2023	Hungary	United Kingdom	
2024	Estonia	Austria	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate ⁶
2025	Slovenia	Germany	
2026	Slovakia	Finland	
2027	Latvia	Portugal	
2028	Czech Republic	France	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate
2029	Poland	Sweden	
2030	Cyprus	Belgium	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate
2031	Malta	Spain	
2032	Bulgaria	Denmark	
2033	Netherlands	Italy	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate

⁶ Providing that this Decision enters into force before the call for submission of applications for the 2024 competition is due for publication, i.e. six years before the year of the title.