



Council of the
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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: European Capitals of Culture 2022
- Information from the Lithuanian and Luxembourg delegations

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Lithuanian and Luxembourg delegations 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 23 May 2018.

European Capitals of Culture 2022

The cities of **Kaunas in Lithuania** and **Esch-sur-Alzette in Luxembourg** have been officially nominated European Capitals of Culture for the year 2022. Following an open two-round selection process in compliance with the rules foreseen in the Decision n°445/2014EU, the two second-largest cities in their country will thus strive to carry on the vision, goals and reputation of one of the most important and most visible programmes of the European Union. The objective of the initiative is indeed more relevant than ever as it aims to underline the importance of sharing our heritage and values, of actively engaging citizens through culture in all its diversity and of experiencing European identity and belonging.

Building on the legacy of their illustrious predecessors holding the title and enriching it with their own assets, ideas and enthusiasm, Kaunas and Esch-sur-Alzette will implement long-term action plans for culture that will promote Europe's cultural heritage as well as its cultural contemporaneity, measure the importance of investment in culture, and highlight culture's transformer potential.

Even though the Council is not involved in the formal designation of the European Capitals of Culture, its support is an important signal for the cities nominated, their inhabitants and the respective Member States. Lithuania and Luxembourg therefore welcome the opportunity of the Council meeting to briefly inform about the concepts of the cities of Kaunas and Esch-sur-Alzette.