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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Support for and Solidarity with Ukrainian culture, including cultural heritage  
– Policy debate

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Following consultation of the Cultural Affairs Committee, the Presidency has prepared the attached discussion note, which is submitted as the basis for the policy debate to take place at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 29 November 2022.

The Presidency has been in contact with the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture, which has set out its main needs regarding cultural reconstruction. This information, which is of an informal indicative nature, is set out in doc. 15023/22.

Please note that the list of the most severely damaged objects which need conservation works and the letter referred to in the last sentence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph in the Annex are not attached to this note.

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION POLICY OF UKRAINE**

**THE MOST URGENT NEEDS OF UKRAINIAN CULTURAL SPHERE**

**1. SUPPORT TO UKRAINE IN PRESERVING OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE  
SITES DAMAGED BY WAR**

We would kindly ask for the assistance of EU member states through the EU civil protection instrument for the protection/shelter/conservation of damaged cultural heritage objects in winter conditions.

As you know more than 850 cultural institutions in Ukraine have been damaged by the Russian air strikes and missiles. Many buildings of Ukrainian museums, libraries, artistic education institutions are now with broken roofs and windows. Russian military troops are specifically targeting the critical infrastructure damaging heating and electric networks. On the eve of the winter coming we desperately need support in providing these institutions by the materials to protect their buildings, collections and musical instruments from the low temperatures and possible severe weather conditions. Cultural institutions are also short of emergency equipment such as electric generators, fire extinguishers, fireproof materials to prepare and to secure their collections during the winter. These inputs would be welcomed either in the form of in-kind contributions, or via financial support. Additional need is the conservation of severely damaged buildings before the winter, especially those which belong to the national or local heritage lists. The list of the most severely damaged objects which need conservation works is enclosed to the letter, as well as the list of the necessary equipment for our museums, libraries and other institutions which have precious museum or books collections.

Total amount of financial support needed for critical regions of Ukraine, especially those which are on the front lines, is estimated to **€50 mln**. The list of critical regions is the following: Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipro, Donetsk, Kherson and partially Kyiv region to the north of the capital. Another **€15 mln** is needed for other regions of Ukraine, as we know that Russian military forces could specifically target the critical infrastructure in the Western part of Ukraine as well.

## **SUPPORT FOR AND SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINIAN CULTURE, INCLUDING CULTURAL HERITAGE**

We must resolutely face what is happening outside the borders of the Union, in Ukraine, where Russia is waging a devastating war that is causing immense suffering and destruction. This war is above all a war against our commonly shared European values and ideals upon which the Union was founded. This brutal war calls for firm unity and solidarity by European countries and by our artists and professionals from the cultural and creative sectors. Culture can divide, but in these difficult times we must affirm that culture is what unites us all; it is the very foundation of European thought and the pillar of a peaceful and common future.

We must act now. We must show our strong solidarity with Ukraine and our continuous support for fortifying its hope for the future. At the Council meeting on 23 June 2022, Ukraine was, together with Moldova, granted candidate status. This historic step officially opens up the European journey for Ukraine and is immensely symbolic, providing a much-needed moral boost for the Ukrainian people in the face of Russia's aggression.

The Czech Presidency welcomes the swift and flexible response of the Commission in addressing the dire needs of Ukrainian artists and professionals through the Creative Europe 2023 programme. The tenders announced on 29 September 2022 (Support for Ukrainian displaced people and the Ukrainian Cultural and Creative Sectors) and on 10 October 2022 (Culture moves Europe) are a significant contribution and bring hope in the field of culture.

The Czech Presidency fully supports all means of comprehensive assistance to Ukraine in terms of the future reconstruction of the country, but also in terms of the acute need for preservation, protection and restoration of the Ukrainian cultural heritage that is being barbarically damaged. The Presidency welcomes all macro-financial assistance to Ukraine endorsed by the Council and commends the forthcoming and responsive approach taken by Member States and the Commission.

The Presidency deems it necessary to continue highlighting the significance of the cultural traditions and history of Ukraine and not to leave them at the mercy of looting and devastation. During the Czech Presidency, the European Cultural Heritage Summit held in Prague and organised by Europa Nostra in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic was attended by Ukrainian guests and online by Oleksandr Tkachenko, Ukraine's Minister for Culture and Information Policy. At the event, the Ukrainian World Vyshyvanka Day initiative won the Public Choice Awards. The Presidency kindly calls on all Member States to continue establishing partnerships with Ukrainian municipalities, institutions and professional organisations, including partnerships between European Capitals of Culture and their possible Ukrainian counterparts.

As unprecedented times require unprecedented action, we call on the Commission and Member States to join forces to include in the humanitarian aid to Ukraine the emergency needs in the spheres of the arts, culture and cultural heritage. There is an urgent need to combine the strategic foresight and resources of the EU institutions with the flexibility with which philanthropic and civil society actors can be mobilised.

In the light of the above, we propose that the Ministers for Culture formulate their contributions on the basis of the following questions:

1. In your country, what are the possibilities for specific assistance in relation to Ukraine's requirements in the fields of culture?  
*(See doc. 15023/22)*
2. What is your opinion on strengthening cooperation between European Capitals of Culture and Ukrainian cities and their promotion?