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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: The situation of the cultural and creative sectors in Ukraine
- *Information from the Polish delegation*

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Polish delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under ‘Any other business’ of the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting of 15-16 May 2023.

The situation of the cultural and creative sectors in Ukraine**Information from the Polish delegation**

EYCS Council, 16 May 2023

For over a year, the war in Ukraine has been waged by the Russian regime. Civilians are dying, and infrastructure is being destroyed. Historic sites and buildings, as well as cultural institutions, are treated barbarically and become targets for attacks and looting. The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine has reported that by the end of March, 1,373 cultural infrastructure facilities, excluding cultural heritage objects, were damaged. Almost one-third of them were destroyed.

The war has caused Ukrainian citizens, also those employed in cultural and creative sectors and artists, not to be able to live safely, perform their work, and earn a living.

In the document "Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment: February 2022 – February 2023," prepared jointly by the World Bank, the Ukrainian government, the European Commission, and the United Nations, it was estimated that as of February 24, 2023, the total damage cost from identified assets amounted to 2.6 billion US dollars. The data concern culture and tourism. It was also estimated that losses in the cultural and creative industries amounted to 10.8 billion US dollars and 3.2 billion US dollars in tourism.

In the face of the catastrophic events and suffering experienced by Ukraine and its citizens, the European Union does not remain indifferent but can still do more. This also includes support for the cultural and creative sectors and assistance in their reconstruction.

At the EYCS Council meeting in November last year, Ukrainian Minister of Culture and Information Policy Oleksandr Tkachenko informed about the consequences of Russian aggression in the field of culture. He presented a list of in-kind and financial needs. Poland supported the request of the Ukrainian government and appealed for the preparation of a European solidarity support plan for the protection and reconstruction of the cultural and creative sectors in Ukraine, as well as for the preparation of a comprehensive report on the EU's and Member States' assistance to Ukraine. Unfortunately, the European Commission has not taken action in this regard.

In Poland's opinion, allotting 5 million euros from the Creative Europe programme to support Ukrainian artists and cultural operators, as well as cultural and creative organisations, is decidedly insufficient. The current involvement of other EU instruments also does not meet the enormous and continuously growing needs. It is necessary to develop a structured assistance mechanism and a recovery plan for the cultural and creative sectors of Ukraine after the war. To achieve this, a cooperation between all directorates of the European Commission must be strengthened. Poland calls upon the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture to collaborate with other directorates to establish a fund for Ukraine.
