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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Presentation of programs for European Capitals of Culture 2024 of Bad Ischl Salzkammergut (Austria) and Tartu (Estonia) <i>- Information from the Austrian and Estonian delegations</i>

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Austrian and Estonian 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 24 November 2023.

Upcoming European Capitals of Culture 2024

- Information from the Austrian and Estonian delegations -

In 2024 there will be three European Capitals of Culture: Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut in Austria, Tartu in Estonia and Bodø in Norway. In a spirit of cooperation and networking, these three European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) hosted a joint event at the European Parliament on 15 November 2023 where they presented their respective programmes. For the first time ever, the Brussels audience was given an opportunity to experience all upcoming ECoCs in one evening.

- **Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut 2024**

‘Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut 2024’ will be Austria’s third European Capital of Culture after Graz in 2003 and Linz in 2009. 23 municipalities in total, including Bad Ischl at the heart of the Salzkammergut region, are looking forward to engaging in an inspiring international dialogue in 2024, in line with their motto ‘23 for 24 – the great opportunity for a region’.

For the first time in the history of the European Capitals of Culture, a rural alpine space will play the leading role. The region will have the unique opportunity to use art and culture to harness the potential that rural areas have in highly topical areas such as digitalisation, migration and climate change. Historically, the region was created from salt and enriched by salt. Today, the region is willing to understand culture as the new salt. Following four lines of programming, Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut 2024 will take on important topics from within its region, Europe and the world by providing new impulses for the future and by showcasing a diversity of both historically rooted and contemporary art and culture, which will allow the region to network internationally.

The opening events will take place on 20 and 21 January 2024 with a wide range of activities across the Salzkammergut region. Austria warmly invites all EU culture ministers and the Commissioner for Culture to participate in the festivities!

<https://www.salzkammergut-2024.at/en/home/>

- **Tartu 2024**

Tartu 2024 will be Estonia's second European Capital of Culture after Tallinn in 2011. The city of Tartu and the region of southern Estonia – in total one quarter of the whole country – will work together at regional level and with 100 foreign partners from 25 countries around the world under the banner of the European Capital of Culture! This year's theme is 'Arts of Survival'. The role and meaning of the theme is more topical than ever.

The year-long programme will bring over 1 000 events to individuals of all ages under in four key areas: **Tartu with Earth** will provide guidance on how to be more environmentally friendly. In addition, all of the Tartu 2024 events will comply with the newly developed environmental guidelines. The **Tartu with Humanities** events are aimed at restoring trust and a sense of security in human closeness and direct contact through cross-generational learning and co-creation, with a focus on mental health, marginalised youth, the elderly and outsider artists. **Tartu with Europe** explores the challenges of life on Europe's border and seeks to bring the European dimension to the forefront of people's minds. At the same time, **Tartu with Europe** will signal to Europe that, even with our own local languages and customs, we are part of its cultural diversity. **Tartu with Universe** shows how the artistic vision of the future inspires science, AI, gene technology etc.

The opening events will take place on 26 January 2024 with a wide range of activities across Tartu and southern Estonia. Estonia invites all EU culture ministers and the Commissioner for Culture to participate in the festivities!

<https://tartu2024.ee/en/>

- **Bodø**

The third city to hold the title of European capital of culture is Bodø. Bodø 2024 is the largest cultural project in Norway in over 10 years and the largest ever in northern Norway.

<https://www.bodo2024.no>