



**Brussels, 14 November 2019
(OR. en)**

14094/19

CULT 131

INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Selection of the European Capital of Culture 2024
- Information from the Austrian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Austrian delegation 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 21-22 November 2019.

Selection of the European Capital of Culture 2024

After three intense years of competition in Austria with three bidding cities, the European panel of experts recommended on 12 November 2019 to announce Bad Ischl as the European Capital of Culture 2024. The selection process was accompanied by a series of conferences and workshops organized by the Federal Chancellery in order to raise public awareness and to assist the interested cities in their preparation.

Bad Ischl, the city leading the application, is located in a cultural region in the centre of Austria called “Salzkammergut”. 15 municipalities in three federal provinces are contributing to this European initiative, which underlines the strong commitment for the cultural development of the region. Their common concept “SALT.WATER” has very powerful messages with a strong European dimension. It focuses on a balance between tradition and modern life, between cultural heritage and contemporary art, and between hypertourism and relaxation with respect for nature. Another important topic is the culture of remembrance and the confrontation with the past of the Salzkammergut during National Socialism.

Although the Council is not involved in the formal designation of the European Capitals of Culture, Austria would like to inform the delegations about the recommendation of the European panel of experts to award the title of the European Capital of Culture 2024 to Bad Ischl.