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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 27 and 28 November 2025: Leuven: European Capital of Culture 2030 - <i>Information from Belgium</i>

European Capital of Culture 2030: Leuven

Information from Belgium

Following in the footsteps of Mons (2015), Bruges (2002), Brussels (2000), and Antwerp (1993), Leuven has been chosen as the next Belgian city to hold the prestigious title of European Capital of Culture in 2030.

During the preselection phase of the competition, several cities (Bruges, Kortrijk, Leuven, Ghent, Molenbeek and Namur) submitted their candidacies. After a highly competitive deliberation, Leuven, Molenbeek and Namur advanced to the final round. On 24 September 2025, the chairperson of the European Capitals of Culture Expert Panel announced that Leuven was recommended to become Belgium's European Capital of Culture for 2030. The Ministers of Culture from Belgium's three Communities officially confirmed Leuven's designation, based on the recommendations and report of the independent panel.

LOV2030 – Leuven & Beyond is the title of the candidacy for Leuven and 30 municipalities in East Brabant. Leuven is located about 25 km east of Brussels and is home to 104.000 inhabitants and over 60 000 students, East Brabant counts 565.000 inhabitants. The concept of LOV, referring to both “love” and “Lovanium,” the Latin name for Leuven, is central to its mission, aiming to forge radically new connections. The candidacy aspires to create a brighter future for Leuven and its broader region, inspiring innovative solutions for other European cities and regions. By placing art and culture at the core of its vision, the initiative positions them as essential drivers for a socially just and sustainable society. The central theme, HumanNature, addresses pressing challenges such as polarization and climate change.

At the EYCS Council meeting, the Belgian delegation will be honored to briefly update all delegations on Leuven’s designation as the next Belgian European Capital of Culture for 2030.
