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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 11 and 12 May 2026:
International Conference for the Reconstruction of Ukraine (URC), (June 25-26 in Gdańsk, Poland)
- Information from Poland

This year, Poland will host the next edition of the Ukrainian Recovery Conference, to be held in Gdańsk on 25–26 June 2026. It will bring together hundreds of politicians, businesspeople, representatives of local authorities and non-governmental organizations. In addition to strictly economic issues, one of the conference’s thematic tracks will be the Human Dimension. As part of this track, a series of panels and workshops will be dedicated to address the reconstruction of Ukraine’s cultural sector. To further emphasize that the post-war recovery of the country must not overlook the sphere of culture, the Polish side is also organizing a roundtable of ministers of culture. The roundtable will take place on 26 June at 10:00 a.m. at the European Solidarity Centre in Gdansk.

Poland encourages all MS to join this discussion on how to ensure that culture is given its proper place in the process of rebuilding Ukraine after the end of hostilities, as well as how to support the cultural sector while they are still ongoing. Russia's actions are focused not only on destroying Ukraine's infrastructure and economy, but also on erasing its heritage and undermining its national identity. In practice, Russia denies Ukrainians the right to their own distinct cultural identity and statehood. Culture therefore plays a fundamental role in resisting such threats—threats that will likely not disappear entirely even after the guns fall silent.
