



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 October 2010

15168/10

CULT 94

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council

to : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council

No. Cion prop. : 15167/10 CULT 93

Subject : Draft Council Decision designating the European Capital of Culture for the year 2015 in Belgium
– *Adoption*

1. In accordance with Article 8 of Decision No 1622/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community action for the European Capital of Culture event for the years 2007 to 2019¹, the selection panel recommended in its reports dated February 2010 that Mons (Belgium) hosts the event in 2015. In line with Article 9 of the above-mentioned Decision, Belgium notified this nomination to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Committee of the Regions.
2. Under Article 9(2) of the above-mentioned Decision, the European Parliament may forward an opinion to the Commission on the nomination. The European Parliament forwarded its favourable opinion on the nomination of Mons to the Commission in early July 2010.

¹ OJ L 304, 3.11.2006, p 1.

3. On 18 October 2010, the Commission submitted its recommendation for a Council Decision on the designation of Mons as "European Capital of Culture 2015", in accordance with Article 9(3) of Decision No 1622/2006/EC. This recommendation was drawn up in the light of the positive opinion of the European Parliament and the justifications based on the reports of the selection panel.

4. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee could invite the Council to adopt the Decision annexed hereto, and consequently designate officially the city of MONS (Belgium) as European Capital of Culture for 2015.

COUNCIL DECISION

designating the European Capital of Culture for the year 2015 in Belgium

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Decision No 1622/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community action for the European Capital of Culture event for the years 2007 to 2019¹, and in particular Article 9(3) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Having regard to the Selection Panel reports of February 2010 regarding the selection process of the European Capitals of Culture in Belgium,

Whereas:

Considering that the criteria referred to in Article 4 of Decision No1622/2006/EC are entirely fulfilled,

¹ OJ L 304, 3.11.2006, p. 1.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Mons is designated as “European Capital of Culture 2015” in Belgium.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at [...],

For the Council
The President
