



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**CULT 101**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Council  
Subject: **Draft extended partial agreement on Council of Europe's Cultural Routes**  
- *Information from the Luxembourg delegation*

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Luxembourg delegation on the above subject, appearing on the agenda under other business for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 18 and 19 November 2010.

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**Note from the Luxembourg delegation**

**Draft extended partial agreement on Council of Europe Cultural Routes**

For several months the Luxembourg Minister for Culture has been drawing her colleagues' attention to the Council of Europe's (CoE) Cultural Routes programme and, more particularly, to the programme's draft extended cultural agreement.

It is undeniable that the Cultural Routes programme has been increasingly successful and has more than proved its worth over its 23-year history. Even so, the Council of Europe's ordinary budget for 2011 will no longer be able to fund the programme. It is therefore planned that an extended partial agreement be drawn up, i.e. a cooperation agreement (also open to non-member states of the CoE and to international organisations) which will have a budget and its own activities set by the partial agreement members alone. The agreement will also allow States, should they so wish, to opt out of activities proposed by other Member States.

For this partial agreement to become reality, a sufficient number of Member States need to indicate through their Permanent Representations at the CoE that they wish to accede to it on 1 January 2011. Estimated contributions have already been drawn up and these vary between about EUR 5 000 and 60 000 depending on Member States and the number of participating States. Funding is proportionate to the programme's obvious added value, even during, or particularly in, a time of crisis which requires us all to rationalise expenditure.

Although the programme is run by the CoE, securing support for such a partial agreement is in line with European Union policy. Cultural Routes link up several dimensions, such as :

- the citizens' dimension (by tying local heritage to wider cultural developments, and by encouraging collaborative initiatives at grass roots level, thus enabling European citizens to take ownership of their heritage, understand it as part of their common European heritage, and take pride in it).

- the tourism dimension (by highlighting the considerable potential of those local initiatives in promoting cultural tourism - a type of tourism that is sustainable, ethical and social because it is based on expertise, know-how and resources rooted in the local heritage. It often selects little-known European destinations and Europe itself as a destination for quality cultural experience).
- the economic dimension (by making an impact on the SME economy: the ministers have discussed this issue on several occasions since the beginning of the year, focusing on innovation potential and competitiveness in the cultural and creative industries).

Accordingly, the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes programme is one aspect of European action in the cultural and heritage field. The programme complements, in particular, the draft European Heritage Label which specifically provides that the two initiatives should complement one another. The programme has also caught the attention of the European Parliament, which recently decided to focus on the Cultural Routes programme in 2011.

Minister Octavie Modert would therefore like to use the Council meeting on 18 November as an opportunity to encourage her colleagues to liaise with relevant ministries with a view to acceding to the partial agreement, which aims on the one hand to ensure viability and on the other to open the programme up to other interested parties.

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