



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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SOC 369**

NOTE

from: Presidency
to Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council
Subject: Mobility information services for artists and for culture professionals
- *Policy debate*

Delegations will find attached a Presidency discussion paper on the above subject in preparation for the meeting of the Ministers of Culture at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 19 -20 May 2011.

Mobility information services for artists and for culture professionals**A. Summary of the steps taken so far**

1. All major EU culture policy documents (such as the current Culture Programme, the European Agenda for Culture and the two last Council Work Plans for Culture covering the periods 2008-2010 and 2011-2014) have highlighted the importance of the mobility of artists and other culture professionals and set this topic as one of the key priorities of the EU's cultural cooperation. The transnational mobility of artists and culture professionals is crucial to enhance cultural and linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue and to reinforce a sense of belonging to the European Union. It also provides access to a European labour market that is substantially larger and more diverse than national labour markets. Moreover, more and better mobility can contribute to achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, namely smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. For all these reasons, mobility needs to be actively promoted by the European Union and its Member States.
2. On the basis of the previous Work Plan for Culture (2008-2010), a working group was set up in the framework of the open method of coordination (OMC) with a mission to improve the conditions for the mobility of artists and culture professionals. The OMC working group agreed as its first priority area the need to improve information on mobility in the field of culture. It considered that quality information provision can make a key contribution to solving both specific and general obstacles to mobility. For this purpose it prepared guidelines for Mobility Information Services. In line with the OMC working group's recommendation, the current Work Plan for Culture (2011-2014) has called on the Commission to set up an expert working group which will further specify the guidelines drafted by the OMC working group and propose common content and quality information standards.

3. The Hungarian Presidency is proposing to the EYCS Council to adopt “*Draft Council conclusions on mobility information services for artists and for culture professionals*”¹ at its meeting on 19 May 2011. The conclusions suggest measures to establish mobility information services and foster the flow of information on mobility issues such as taxation, social security, intellectual property rights, visas, work permits, insurance and customs. The Commission is invited to map possibilities for financial support for information services regarding the mobility of artists and other culture professionals when it prepares its funding programmes for the next budgeting period.

B. Policy debate

Before the adoption of the Council conclusions, EU Culture ministers will have an opportunity to exchange views on the topic of mobility information services for artists and for culture professionals. Delegations are invited to consider the following questions:

- a) How do Member States envisage the launching and functioning of mobility information services at national level? What positive effects and challenges can be expected?

- b) According to the Council conclusions, culture authorities often experience difficulties when they seek to resolve certain administrative and regulatory issues linked with mobility of artists, the reason being that these issues, such as taxation, social security, visas and intellectual property rights, are often outside their sphere of responsibility. How could cooperation between your cultural authorities and other responsible authorities be made more effective?
Do you already have examples of good cooperation between authorities in your country?

¹ Doc. 9058/11.