



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 10 November 2016
(OR. en)

13660/16

LIMITE

CULT 101
AELE 77
EEE 41
CODEC 1506

**Interinstitutional File:
2016/0186 (COD)**

NOTE

From:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	12662/16 CULT 87 AELE 73 EEE 39 CODEC 1332
No. Cion doc.:	10532/16 CULT 60 AELE 48 EEE 33 CODEC 933 + ADD 1
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 - <i>General approach</i>

At its meeting on 9 November 2016, the Permanent Representatives Committee examined the above-mentioned proposal for a decision to extend the access to the European Capitals of Culture action to EFTA/EEA countries¹. The text resulting from this examination is attached in annex.

The text is acceptable to all delegations with the exception of the United Kingdom that maintains a reservation concerning its participation in the action foreseen for 2023, in accordance with the calendar set out in the Annex to the proposed decision (see page 7).

The Council is invited to examine the text with a view to reaching a general approach on the proposed decision.

¹ doc. 12662/16

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 167 (5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions²,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure³,

Whereas:

- (1) Decision No 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ aims at safeguarding and promoting the diversity of cultures in Europe and at highlighting the common features they share, while increasing citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area. That Decision also aims at fostering the contribution of culture to the long-term development of cities in accordance with their respective strategies and priorities.

² OJ C , , p. .

³ Position of the European Parliament of ... [(OJ ...)] [(not yet published in the Official Journal)] and decision of the Council of

⁴ Decision No 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 and repealing Decision No 1622/2006/EC (OJ L 132, 3.5. 2014, p. 1).

- (2) Article 3 of Decision No 445/2014/EU provides that only cities from a Member State, from a candidate country or from a potential candidate, or from a country that accedes to the Union have access to the Union action for the European Capitals of Culture.
- (3) With a view to reinforcing the cultural links between European Free Trade Association countries which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area ('EFTA/EEA countries')⁵ and the European Union, the European Capitals of Culture action should also be open, subject to some conditions, to cities from these countries in line with Article 81 of that Agreement.
- (4) However, during the period covered by Decision No 445/2014/EU, namely from 2020 to 2033, for reasons of equity with cities in the Member States, cities in EFTA/EEA countries should only be allowed to participate in one competition for the title. For reasons of equity with the Member States, each EFTA/EEA country should only be allowed to host the title once during that period.
- (5) As the calls for submission of applications need to be published at the latest six years before the year of the title, a candidate country, potential candidate or EFTA/EEA country should host the European Capital of Culture in 2028 instead of 2027, so as to allow those countries to negotiate their participation in the Union programme supporting culture (2021 to 2027) subsequent to the Creative Europe Programme.
- (6) Decision No 445/2014/EU should therefore be amended accordingly,

⁵ OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision No 445/2014/EU is amended as follows:

(1) Article 3 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

“2. The number of cities holding the title in a given year (‘the year of the title’) shall not exceed three.

The title shall be awarded each year to a maximum of one city in each of the two Member States appearing in the calendar set out in the Annex (‘the calendar’) and, in the relevant years, to one city from an EFTA/EEA country, a candidate country or a potential candidate, or to one city from a country that accedes to the Union in the circumstances set out in paragraph 5.”;

(b) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

“4. Cities in EFTA/EEA countries, in candidate countries and in potential candidates which participate in the Creative Europe Programme or in the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture at the date of publication of the call for submission of applications referred to in Article 10(2) may apply for the title for one year in the framework of an open competition organised in accordance with the calendar set out in the Annex.

Cities in EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries and potential candidates shall only be allowed to participate in one competition during the period from 2020 to 2033.

Each EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate shall only be allowed to host the title once during the period from 2020 to 2033.”;

(2) Article 10 is amended as follows:

(a) the title is replaced by the following:

“Pre-selection and selection in EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries or potential candidates”;

(b) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

”1. The Commission shall be responsible for the organisation of the competition between cities in EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries and potential candidates.”;

(c) in paragraph 6, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:

“6. The panel shall issue a selection report on the applications of the shortlisted candidate cities together with a recommendation for the designation of a maximum of one city in one EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate.”;

(3) In Article 11, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

“2. In the case of EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, the Commission shall designate one city to hold the title in the relevant years, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the selection report of the panel, and shall notify, no later than four years before the year of the title, the European Parliament, the Council and the Committee of the Regions of that designation.”;

(4) Article 13 is amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 2, the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

“The Member State or EFTA/EEA country or candidate country or potential candidate concerned may nominate an observer to attend those meetings.”;

(b) in paragraph 3, the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

“The panel shall transmit its monitoring reports to the Commission, as well as to the designated cities and to the Member State, EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate concerned.”;

(5) The Annex is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

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

Done at [...],

For the European Parliament

For the Council

The President

The President

**Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of
Culture for the years 2020 to 2033**

CALENDAR

2020	Croatia	Ireland	
2021	Romania	Greece	Candidate country or potential candidate
2022	Lithuania	Luxembourg	
2023	Hungary	United Kingdom ⁶	
2024	Estonia	Austria	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate ⁷
2025	Slovenia	Germany	
2026	Slovakia	Finland	
2027	Latvia	Portugal	
2028	Czech Republic	France	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate
2029	Poland	Sweden	
2030	Cyprus	Belgium	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate
2031	Malta	Spain	
2032	Bulgaria	Denmark	
2033	Netherlands	Italy	EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate

⁶ UK reservation.

⁷ Provided that this Decision enters into force before the call for applications for the 2024 competition is due for publication, i.e. six years before the year of the title.