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8103/15

CULT 20

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	8101/15 CULT 19
Subject:	Recommendation for a Council Decision designating the European Capitals of Culture for the year 2019 in Bulgaria and Italy - <i>Adoption</i>

1. Decision No 1622/2006/EC¹ ("the Decision") sets out the procedure for selecting, nominating and designating European Capitals of Culture. For this purpose, it establishes a selection panel that assesses the applications of candidate cities and draws up a report containing a recommendation for the nomination of cities to become the European Capitals of Culture.
2. The selection panel recommended the nomination of Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and Matera (Italy) as European Capitals of Culture in 2019 in its respective reports of October and November 2014. Taking into account these recommendations, Bulgaria and Italy nominated the two recommended cities and notified accordingly the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Committee of the Regions in December 2014 and February 2015 respectively (Article 9(1) of the Decision).

¹ 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 2019 (OJ L 304, 3.11.2006, p. 1).

3. Article 9(2) of the Decision allows the European Parliament to forward an opinion to the Commission on the nominations. The European Parliament did so in March 2015.
4. In the light of the positive opinion of the European Parliament and the justifications based on the reports of the selection panel, the Commission drew up a recommendation for a Council Decision designating the European Capitals of Culture for the year 2019 in Bulgaria and Italy² (Article 9(3) of the Decision). The Commission submitted this recommendation to the Council on 21 April 2015.
5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee could invite the Council to
 - adopt the Decision annexed to this note and thus designate PLOVDIV and MATERA as European Capitals of Culture for the year 2019, and
 - authorise the publication of that Decision in the Official Journal.

² 8101/15 - COM(2015) 166 final.

Recommendation for a

COUNCIL DECISION

designating the European Capitals of Culture for the year 2019 in Bulgaria and Italy

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 2019³, and in particular Article 9(3) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Having regard to the selection panel's reports of October and November 2014 regarding the selection process of the European Capitals of Culture in Bulgaria and Italy,

Whereas :

Considering that the criteria referred to in Article 4 of Decision No 1622/2006/EC are entirely fulfilled,

³ OJ L 304, 3.11.2006, p. 1.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Plovdiv and Matera are designated as “European Capitals of Culture 2019” in Bulgaria and Italy respectively.

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 Brussels,

For the Council

The President
