Council of the European Union

Brussels, 9 September 2026
(OR. en)

12715/26

LIMITE

CULT 105
CULT HERIT 22
AUDIO 100
EDUC 354
JEUN 204
EMPL 325
COMPET 1023
PROCIV 168
FIN 1203
DIGIT 218
RELEX 1103
RESUA 28
ENV 1017
PI 102

PUBLIC

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Draft Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2027-2030 *- Revised Presidency text*

Delegations will find attached the revised Presidency text of the draft Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2027-2030.

Additions are marked with **bold underline** and deletions with ~~strikethrough~~.

This text will be discussed at the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) meeting of 14-15 September 2026. Delegations wishing to submit written comments will be invited to do so in the consultation that will open soon.

NB: The indicative table in Annex II to the Annex has not been updated for this text version. It will only be updated for the final version of the Resolution, as it summarises actions mentioned throughout the text. Therefore, no comments are expected on it at this stage.

NB2: The Main Political References in Annex IV to the Annex have been ordered alphabetically. This change has not been marked, for readability purposes.

PUBLIC

ANNEX

Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2027–2030

PUBLIC

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

ACKNOWLEDGING

– the intrinsic value of culture as a source of meaning, inspiration, innovation, human connection, mutual understanding, identity and community;

– that Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity forms a common heritage that should be cherished, supported and preserved for the benefit of all;

– **the central role of culture in protecting democracy and promoting European values as well as fostering peace, societal resilience, social dialogue, inclusion, social cohesion and the health and wellbeing of Union citizens;**

– **the role of culture in the promotion of gender equality and the need for the Union in all its activities to aim to eliminate inequalities and promote equality, in accordance with Article 8 TFEU;**

– the unique role of the cultural and creative sectors (CCS) in accelerating the green transition by ~~promoting~~ **including** sustainability, resilience and climate adaptation, in line with the Union's objectives;

~~– the central role of culture in protecting democracy and promoting European values as well as fostering peace, societal resilience, social dialogue, gender equality, inclusion, social cohesion and the health and wellbeing of Union citizens;~~

– the pivotal role of the CCS **in generating employment across the Union and** in driving growth, competitiveness, innovation and inclusive sustainable development~~, and in generating employment across the Union~~;

– the importance of culture in the EU's bilateral and multilateral external relations and cooperation, and in particular its partnership with UNESCO and the Council of Europe;

~~– the role of culture in the promotion of gender equality and the need for the Union in all its activities to aim to eliminate inequalities and promote equality, in accordance with Article 8 TFEU;~~

IN LIGHT OF

– Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, including the targeted destruction of cultural heritage, attacks on its CCS, and attacks on Ukrainian artists and cultural professionals;

– the ongoing geopolitical instabilities across the globe, including in **conflict regions** ~~the Middle East~~, which pose significant threats to and have far-reaching impacts~~, including~~ on cultural heritage, artists and cultural professionals;

– the real and immediate impacts of the environmental and climate crises~~, including the unprecedented loss of biodiversity,~~ on **cultural landscapes and** cultural heritage and**, more broadly, on** the CCS ~~more broadly~~, with Europe – the fastest warming continent on the planet – experiencing **unprecedented loss of biodiversity,** worsening cycles of heatwaves, wildfires, drought, heavy snow, floods, marine heatwaves and windstorms[1];

[1] See European State of the Climate Report 2025, https://climate.copernicus.eu/esotc/2025

– ongoing challenges facing democracies across the Union and globally, including threats to artistic freedom and the autonomy of cultural institutions, and ongoing efforts to help coordinate, mobilise, complement and strengthen Europe's collective response to these challenges[2];

– rapid developments in digital technology, notably artificial intelligence (AI), creating opportunities to support creative practice and protect and enhance cultural heritage, while raising concerns about threats to human creativity, cultural and linguistic diversity, job security, cybersecurity, data sovereignty, fair remuneration and the protection of intellectual property rights in the CCS.

RECALLING

– **that EU Work Plans for Culture set the high-level political framework and a forward-looking agenda for Member States' engagement on cultural policy at Union level;**

– the Joint Declaration 'Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe'[3], adopted by the Council, Parliament and Commission, which outlines a long-term strategic vision to place culture at the heart of Europe's identity;

– ~~the key directions outlined in~~ the Culture Compass for Europe Communication issued by the Commission on 12 November 2025[4];

– the Commission's Report on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 of 2 July 2026;

– the political references as set out in Annex I**V**~~H~~ to this Resolution;

– the previous Council and EU Work Plans for Culture and results achieved under them.

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2 See European Democracy Shield: Empowering Strong and Resilient Democracies, doc. 15387/25

3 OJ C, C/2026/3440, 25.6.2026

4 Doc. 15410/25

AGREES

– to support the enhancement of European cultural cooperation, promote cultural and linguistic diversity, and provide European added value, taking into consideration the current cultural, social, economic, security and political context and with due regard for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;

– on the following areas of focus for the 2027-2030 period, inspired by the key directions of the 2025 Culture Compass for Europe:

A. Strengthening European values, cultural rights and artistic freedom;

B. Empowering artists and cultural professionals, and supporting **people and** society;

C. Culture and competitiveness, resilience, innovation, sustainability and cohesion;

D. International cultural relations (ICR) and partnerships.

INVITES MEMBER STATES

– to consider, where appropriate, the areas of focus of this Work Plan in the development of their own national policy in culture and the opportunities for cooperation between Member States arising from those areas.

INVITES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

– to prepare a report on the implementation of the EU Work Plan for Culture 2027-2030, based on voluntary contributions from EU Member States, by June 2030;

– to regularly update the Council on the implementation of the Work Plan for Culture 2027-2030 and its specific actions, as appropriate**, to enable Member States to maintain an overall view of progress and outcomes, while ensuring appropriate visibility and accessibility of the outcomes for cultural sectors and citizens**.

PUBLIC

I. AREAS OF FOCUS

A. Strengthening European values, cultural rights and artistic freedom

Social, cultural and geopolitical developments during previous Work Plans for Culture have highlighted culture's strategic role in promoting European values, strengthening democra**cy**~~tic resilience~~ and building stronger, more resilient societies. Actions under the Work Plan 2027-2030 should further strengthen understanding and awareness of ~~what is meant by~~ cultural rights **as a way to enhance access to and participation in culture.** ~~(including the rights of all people to access and participate in cultural life, as well as freedom of expression and creation).~~

Access to and participation in culture remain fundamental pillars of cultural rights as recognised in relevant human rights instruments[5]. The Work Plan should support coordinated ~~EU~~ **Union** action to promote inclusive participation in culture and cultural heritage, **both tangible and intangible,** ~~including built heritage~~ and digit**al**~~ised~~ cultural assets. ~~Particular attention should be given to the contribution of c~~**C**ultural institutions, including, among others, libraries, museums, theatres, and heritage sites, **as well as high-quality living environments** ~~to~~ promot**e**~~eing~~ democratic participation and civic engagement, particularly among young **and older** people, rural communities, persons with disabilities and marginalised groups, while strengthening community-based cultural and social hubs.

Threats to artistic freedom in their many forms remain a key concern in the CCS[6]. Stakeholders have called for measures in response to these threats, including the development of robust indicators and country-specific monitoring of artistic freedom. Cooperation with the Council of Europe and UNESCO should ~~also~~ be strengthened to support existing initiatives, to develop future joint initiatives and to avoid duplication.

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5 **See for example the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**

6 See for example: Commission Report on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026**.**~~; Culture Action Europe Work Plan for Culture 2027-2030: results of the sector consultation.~~

The Work Plan should contribute to greater awareness of the ~~ideals~~, principles and values embedded in Europe's cultural heritage, which constitute a shared source of remembrance, understanding, identity, dialogue, cohesion and creativity.

B. Empowering artists and cultural professionals and supporting people and society

Strengthening the status, working conditions and **cross-border** mobility of artists and CCS professionals**, while respecting the role and autonomy of the social partners,** remains a key priority for EU cultural policy, and is essential to protecting the viability and increasing the impact of the CCS. Artists and cultural professionals have the right to fair, just, healthy and safe working conditions, while fair remuneration and suitable working conditions also help sustain artistic freedom and cultural and linguistic diversity. **Facilitating mobility across Europe is essential to fostering artistic collaboration, supporting career development opportunities and ensuring the circulation of cultural works.**

The Work Plan 2027-2030 builds on Europe's collective work to date to protect the status of artists and ensure fair remuneration of artists and CCS professionals at national and regional level. To ensure continuity, regard should be had to the recommendations outlined in the 2023 Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Report 'The status and working conditions of artists and cultural and creative professionals', including through stocktaking and sharing best practice. The Work Plan should also support the Council's **input into the development of** ~~contribution to~~ future policy ~~development~~ **initiatives** in this field, including through timely contributions to the EU Artists Charter[7].

Precarity of work and gender and representation gaps continue to have negative impacts on the wellbeing of artists and CCS professionals, which should continue to be addressed during this period. Upskilling and training for artists and CCS professionals - including in traditional skills and crafts as well as new digital technologies - will also increase in importance as technological and economic changes continue to impact the sectors. Other important concerns include improving both cultural ~~education~~ and ~~specialised~~ artistic education**, including through formal, non-formal and informal learning, as part of lifelong learning**.

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7 ~~See~~ **To be developed by the Commission under the** Culture Compass for Europe (doc. 15410/25) ~~flagship action #7~~.

In addition, the Work Plan seeks to continue EU-level policy cooperation in the area of culture and health, fostering culture's role in promoting wellbeing, quality of life, mental and social health and community resilience. Building on the 2025 OMC report 'Culture and Health – Time to Act', this work will support the development of EU guidelines on culture, health and wellbeing[8].

C. Culture, competitiveness, resilience, innovation, sustainability and cohesion

Europe's CCS are vital to the Union's competitiveness, employment and innovation. However, they face unprecedented economic and technological challenges. At a time of significant economic uncertainty, inflation and pressure on national budgets, the Work Plan 2027-2030 should promote strategic investment in the CCS. Alongside the mainstreaming of culture across public **financing** ~~and international funding mechanisms~~**, including Union funding mechanisms**, particular emphasis could be placed on innovative financing approaches, including philanthropy, public-private partnerships, and other mechanisms to leverage private capital ~~alongside public investment~~. Supporting the development and exchange of best practice in innovative financing tools and engaging a wide range of stakeholders across different territories, including capacity-constrained regions, will be important to raise awareness of opportunities and to strengthen cooperation. Sustainable and predictable investment in culture remains essential to safeguarding cultural **and linguistic** diversity, **cultural heritage,** artistic freedom and the long-term resilience of the CCS.

During the period 2027-2030 Europe must work to address the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI), **particularly** ~~including~~ generative AI, on the CCS, balancing its opportunities with ~~the~~ potential threats. These include impacts on human creativity, employment, fair remuneration**, business models, competitiveness, use of data,** copyright and related rights, transparency, accessibility, discoverability, linguistic diversity and prominence of European content. Continued exchange amongst Member States, supported by policy dialogues, strategic foresight activities and stakeholder engagement, will be essential to monitor developments in this rapidly developing field, identify appropriate policy responses and avoid duplication of work undertaken in other Council ~~formations~~ **preparatory bodies, while respecting areas of expertise and competences**. The planned AI strategy for the CCS[9] should be informed by consultation with Member States and supported by evidence-based monitoring and data collection ~~on the impact of AI on employment,~~

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8 Culture Compass flagship action #9.

9 ~~See~~ **To be developed by the Commission under the** Culture Compass **for Europe** ~~flagship action #10~~.

~~remuneration, business models, competitiveness, copyright and related rights, and the discoverability of European cultural and creative content, including audiovisual works~~.

Further coordinated action is needed to improve the availability and comparability of European cultural data, improving monitoring and evaluation of the economic, environmental and social impact of the CCS on the wider economy and society. The Work Plan ~~seeks to~~ **should** contribute to the development of the envisaged EU cultural data hub[10].

The continued impact of the climate crisis on Europe's culture and heritage sectors, as well as of other ongoing conflicts and crises of a human-induced nature, also requires a response. **Culture and cultural heritage should continue being appropriately reflected in ongoing work and cross-sectorial cooperation under the Joint Communication on a Preparedness Union Strategy. At the same time,** ~~T~~**t**he Work Plan should strengthen cooperation on risk preparedness, prevention and management, medium and long-term climate adaptation~~,~~ **and** emergency response **of the CCS, as well as** ~~and~~ the reconstruction and recovery of **cultural heritage** ~~the CCS~~. It should ~~also promote~~ **advance** the use of digitisation to ~~support~~ **preserve** culture and heritage, including ~~for~~ audiovisual archives**.** ~~and cultural data while ensuring their safe, long-term preservation. Culture and cultural heritage should be appropriately reflected in relevant strategies and in cross-sectoral cooperation under the Union's developing, more comprehensive, approach to preparedness.~~

Supporting the preservation**, conservation, restoration** and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including underwater cultural heritage, remains essential to fostering shared European identity social cohesion and sustainable development. Efforts to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural goods and to protect **cultural** heritage ~~(both tangible and intangible)~~ from destruction **caused by natural disasters**, conflict, **theft,** human intervention and climate change requires continued cooperation, knowledge-sharing and integration into broader conflict and crisis responses and preparedness measures.

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[10] ~~See~~ **To be developed by the Commission under the** Culture Compass **for Europe** ~~flagship action #3~~.

The CCS should be ~~supported~~ **encouraged** in their efforts to continue their green transition and increase sustainability, including through climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable production processes, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Particular attention should ~~also~~ be paid to the quality of the built environment **in line with the New European Bauhaus**. The CCS should also be recognised as drivers of ~~behavioural~~ change, helping to promote environmental responsibility and sustainability. In this context, the Work Plan should build on the recommendations of the 2025 OMC report *'Creative Shifts: Empowering Culture for Sustainable Living'.*

Furthermore, the Work Plan should foster cooperation on policy development in certain cultural and creative sub-sectors including the video games industry, the music sector; **the library sector; creative fashion and design;** the architectural and cultural heritage sectors.

D. International cultural relations (ICR) and partnerships

The Work Plan should focus on the role of culture in the Union's external action and diplomacy, building on the recommendations of the OMC report on the Governance of ICR *'From soft power to Deep Power: EU Governance of ICR in a Changing World'.* Actions under the Work Plan should support a coherent approach to ICR and ensure Member State involvement in the preparation and implementation of the envisaged ~~update of the~~ EU Strategy on ICR[11].

[11] ~~See~~ **To be developed by the Commission and HRVP under the** Culture Compass **for Europe** ~~flagship action #15~~.

Greater engagement with the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other relevant multilateral partners **can** ~~is needed to~~ foster cooperation and avoid duplication of work **on common priorities**. In light of ongoing geopolitical instabilit**ies**~~y~~, particular attention should be given to protecting culture and cultural heritage in conflict-affected regions. As targeted attacks on cultural heritage, creative infrastructure and artists continue in Ukraine and conflicts elsewhere continue to affect cultural life, ~~European countries~~ **Member States** should maintain a coordinated response, **in coherence with** ~~building on~~ initiatives such as the Team Europe Approach for Cultural Heritage in Ukraine (T.E.A)~~,~~ ~~Cultural Resilience Alliance (CRA), the Ukraine Cultural Heritage Fund (UCHF),~~ and other relevant measures.

The MONDIACULT 2025 Outcome Document provides a clear blueprint for collective global action to promote the role of culture in sustainable development and to shape the post-2030 development agenda. Actions under the Work Plan should **support** ~~complement~~ this vision and **develop EU contributions to relevant discussions in order to** reinforce culture's role as a driver of sustainable development, including through advancing work towards these objectives at MONDIACULT 2029 and engagement in other relevant international processes.

PUBLIC

II. IMPLEMENTATION AND WORKING METHODS

Building on the Joint Declaration 'Europe for Culture - Culture for Europe', the Work Plan for Culture 2027-2030 identifies common challenges of Member States in the field of cultural policy and sets a forward-looking agenda and clear priorities for high-level political engagements on cultural policy at Union level and for cooperation and exchange between Member States. This includes, but is not limited to, outlining priorities for engagement by the Presidencies and EU Culture Ministers through the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council configuration. The Work Plan should ~~also ensure~~ **encourage** structured engagement and input from Member States into key flagship actions outlined in the Culture Compass.

The Work Plan outlines themes for discussion and debate through ministerial and Council meetings during the period covered, as well as key themes for regular review at working party level in the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC). ~~It also provides a framework for Member States to consider, where appropriate, the areas of focus of the Work Plan in the development of their own national policy in culture and the opportunities for strengthened cooperation between Member States.~~

It also outlines other arrangements for coordinated EU engagement at the level of officials and experts, including peer-learning activities, stocktaking exercises and the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) groups.

Review and Flexibility

Maintaining flexibility and adaptability in the provisions and implementation of the EU Work Plan for Culture is essential in order to respond to the needs of the CCS in a challenging and evolving political, social and economic climate. Therefore, at the end of each trio of Presidencies in the timeframe of this Work Plan, the sitting Presidency will facilitate a discussion in the CAC to provide informal updates on actions provided for in the Work Plan. This informal review will look at progress achieved, impact of actions taken, and may propose adjustments to subsequent actions in light of results achieved and/or relevant policy developments at EU or national levels.

This does not preclude other Presidencies from facilitating further **informal** reviews, as deemed appropriate.

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Mainstreaming

Increased coordination and cooperation between cultural policy and other EU and national policy-making fora remains essential. The mainstreaming of cultural policy and coordinated action are essential to leveraging culture's potential to drive societal progress. The Work Plan therefore seeks to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and learning with relevant institutions. This includes collaborations at expert level, promoting closer interaction between various Council preparatory bodies, and increased engagement with relevant stakeholders.

PUBLIC

III. ACTIONS AND WORKING METHOD

A. Policy Dialogues - Artificial Intelligence and the CCS

Objective: To support policy cooperation and information exchange on the opportunities and challenges presented by AI, **as well as practical guidance and capacity-building** for the CCS, and to contribute to the development and implementation of the future EU AI Strategy for the CCS.

Rationale: AI presents significant challenges and opportunities for the CCS. Key issues identified by Member States include the respect of copyright and related rights**;** ~~,~~ transparency in the use of protected content**;** ~~,~~ employment and working conditions**;** ~~,~~ fair remuneration in the CCS**;** ~~,~~ cultural and linguistic diversity**;** ~~and~~ the impact of AI on creative practice**, as well as cultural data as a resource for AI and innovation**. While some of these matters are being addressed via other policy initiatives, many issues related to AI should be considered in the forthcoming AI Strategy for the CCS ~~that, building on the Apply AI Strategy, will set out a strategic vision for the use of AI in these sectors and tackle challenges and opportunities for them raised by AI.~~ In tandem, the Work Plan 2027-2030 proposes a series of targeted Policy Dialogues to address the different, emerging issues related to AI and the CCS **and to support human-centred creativity, innovation and diversity in the age of AI**. Given the fast pace of AI developments, flexible **but regular** policy dialogues can provide a responsive structure for focused and agile interventions on these issues over the period of the Work Plan.

~~Policy Dialogues should seek to support human-centred creativity and diversity in the age of AI.~~ Lessons, best practice and recommendations from the Policy Dialogues should inform political and expert discussions ~~at Union level~~. The full list of the specific topics should be agile to respond to emerging issues.

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Indicative topics could include, but are not limited to:

1. ~~Policy Dialogue on~~ AI and cultural and linguistic diversity

Objective: Examine **measures addressing** the impact of AI on cultural and linguistic diversity, participation in cultural life in the digital environment, accessibility and discoverability of **diverse** European content.

Expected output: Suggestions, ideas and recommendations on how to protect **and enhance** cultural diversity online and ~~how~~ to promote the participation of regional and minority languages in AI systems, as well as issues related to accessibility and discoverability of diverse content. Findings should build upon and complement the wider AI and CCS strategy development, and feed into the ongoing global discussions in international cultural policy fora, including under the UNESCO 2005 Convention.

2. ~~Policy Dialogue on~~ AI and employment in the CCS

Objective: Examine the potential impact on jobs displacement **and transformation** and employment in the CCS, working conditions, fair remuneration, human creativity, skills needs and AI literacy.

Expected output: Peer-review/evidence-gathering of the impact **of AI** on the labour market and consideration of emerging policy responses.

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*3. ~~Policy Dialogue(s) on o~~**O**ther emerging AI issues*

Possible additional AI and CCS Policy Dialogue(s) could serve to facilitate the exchange of information on other emerging issues, including in relation to relevant initiatives adopted at national level, as well as key priorities for action identified in the EU AI Strategy for the CCS. Possible topics may include:

- Arts education, skills and training in age of AI;
- Sectoral responses to AI's impact (including with a specific focus on the impact of AI on the audiovisual sector, video games, **music,** publishing, libraries, **museums** and cultural heritage or others)**;** ~~.~~
- **Opportunities and good practices in the use of AI for creativity, cultural production, dissemination and access to culture;**
- **Cultural data as a resource for AI and innovation.**

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B. Peer Learning Activities (PLAs) / ~~Other~~ Workshops

i) Peer Learning Activities

The Commission's Report on the Work Plan 2023-2026 noted Member States' interest in making greater use of Peer Learning Activities (PLAs). PLAs are Member State-led voluntary exchanges at expert level, providing a practical framework for participating countries to share experience, compare policy approaches, and identify best practices. Where appropriate, PLAs may produce summary reports and practical recommendations. ~~Commission financing will support Member State and expert participation in at least four PLAs over the course of the Work Plan, with options for Member States to finance and organise additional PLAs.~~ PLAs should remain flexible and respond to emerging challenges and may cover:

- ~~*Access to Culture and cultural participation*: exchange of best practice supporting access to culture and cultural heritage, particularly for underrepresented groups, persons with disabilities, young people[12], and those living in rural and remote areas.~~

- *Status of the Artists and Cultural professionals*: exchange of experience regarding topics impacting this sector, including: working conditions, fair remuneration, **gender and representation gaps, barriers to cross-border** mobility and follow up to previous OMC recommendations[13].

~~12~~ ~~Note possible link to Culture Compass flagship action #20.~~

13 Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Group of Member States' experts on 'The Status and Working Conditions of Artists and creative and Cultural Professionals' (2023).

- **_Creative Fashion_: exchange of best practice on the structural challenges facing creative fashion as a distinct cultural and creative sector, including sustainability transition, access to finance, skills and craft transmission.**

- **_Long-term preservation of digital heritage_: exchange of best practices with the possibility to develop common solutions and tools for long-term cross-border preservation of digital cultural heritage in EU with the aim to enhance preparedness and resilience in cultural sector.**

- **_Access to Culture and cultural participation_: exchange of best practice supporting access to culture and cultural heritage, particularly for underrepresented groups, persons with disabilities, young and older people, and those living in rural and remote areas.**

- ~~*Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods*: exchange of best practice on tackling illicit trafficking, including through the use of digital tools and technologies.~~

- ~~*Underwater Cultural Heritage*: exchange of experience on the protection, promotion and management of underwater cultural heritage and strengthened regional and EU cooperation.~~

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Possible additional PLA topics, subject to Member State leadership and financing, **could include: artists at risk; democratic resilience and European remembrance; living heritage, traditional crafts and intangible cultural heritage; culture and arts education; libraries, publishing and the European book sector; design, architecture and high-quality living environments; the audiovisual and film sector; the music sector.**

- ~~artists at risk;~~
- ~~democratic resilience and European remembrance;~~
- ~~living heritage, traditional crafts and intangible cultural heritage;~~
- ~~creative fashion;~~
- ~~culture and arts education;~~
- ~~long-term preservation of digital heritage;~~
- ~~libraries;~~
- ~~architecture and quality-built environments;~~
- ~~the Audiovisual and film sector;~~
- ~~the music sector.~~

ii) ~~Other~~ Workshops

~~For the purposes of this Work Plan,~~ '~~Other~~ Workshops' are Commission-led exchanges bringing together Member States, experts, and stakeholders, where appropriate. ~~Unlike PLAs, which focus on structured peer learning between participating Member States, workshops provide a broader forum for policy reflection, knowledge-sharing, stakeholder dialogue and exploration of emerging issues of European relevance.~~ Workshops may cover:

- *Culture and Health*: exchange of best practice on ongoing cooperation between the culture and health and wellbeing sectors, including contributions to the future ~~and recommendations to feed into~~ the EU guidelines on culture, health and wellbeing.[14]

[14] **To be developed by the Commission under the** ~~(~~Culture Compass **for Europe** ~~flagship action #9)~~

C. Open Method of Coordination (OMC) groups ~~exercises~~

Objective: Facilitate structured expert cooperation and the development of practical recommendations for policymaking at national and Union level.

i) Unlocking Culture Financing: Stimulating investment in the cultural sectors

Rationale: Adequate financing for culture is critical to ensuring a stronger, more competitive cultural sector. However, culture budgets are under ongoing pressure throughout Europe.

Objective: This OMC group will examine culture financing and draw up recommendations for Member States and EU institutions on how to further stimulate the use of innovative financing tools, incentivise and manage private, philanthropic and other sources and mechanisms of funding and cooperation, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. This includes examining how the CCS can be strengthened by creating an enabling environment for increased funding, and how cultural institutions and professionals can best manage development and address any related risks. The OMC will also consider how culture financing can be embedded horizontally, allowing culture to benefit from research, enterprise, mobility, international development and other funding programmes. The OMC group should bring experts in cultural policy together, with experts in public and private financing mechanisms. It ~~e~~**sh**ould also consider UNESCO's emerging work on developing guidelines and recommendations for the financing of culture including through the invitation of relevant experts from UNESCO to participate in the group.

PUBLIC

This new OMC group will seek to review and build on the findings and recommendations of the 2015 report '*Towards More Efficient Financial Ecosystems: Innovative Instruments to Facilitate Access to Finance for the Cultural and Creative Sectors'*. It will also build on the lessons and resources developed under the Creative FLIP (Finance, Learning, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights for the CCSI) **project** ~~programme~~.

The OMC exercise will inform the planned 'EU guidelines on strategic investment in culture, and explore innovative investment tools to attract private capital, including philanthropy, in cooperation with relevant financial institutions'[15].

Target Outputs: Expert report outlining key recommendations for embedding culture in cross-cutting funding mechanisms, and developing an enabling environment for the public and private financing of culture.

ii) Crisis Preparedness and Response: Towards an effective model for EU crisis preparedness, risk-management and response ~~(including restoration and reconstruction)~~ to threats impacting culture and heritage

Rationale: In an increasingly volatile global geopolitical context, culture and heritage are too often at the forefront of conflict and instability. These attacks can take many forms, including the direct targeting of cultural infrastructure and cultural heritage sites. Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine has continued to highlight the targeted destruction of culture and heritage as a deliberate tactic of cultural warfare, designed to undermine and destroy cultural identity. In other regions, ~~including in the Middle East,~~ conflicts continue to pose significant threats to both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. At the same time, the escalating pattern of extreme weather events, including flooding, heatwaves and wildfires, driven by the climate crisis, also pose significant risks of emergency situations for culture and heritage sites across the Union and require reflection, analysis and concrete, coordinated **cross-sector** preparedness actions ahead of such events.

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[15] **To be developed by the Commission under the** Culture Compass for Europe ~~flagship action #20~~.

Objective: Europe has learned from its response to recent crises that EU actions can complement the bilateral initiatives taken by Member States and can provide a valuable contribution and template for crisis preparedness, risk management and emergency response in the culture and heritage sectors. The OMC should address early warning and immediate response mechanisms, as well as ~~the~~ **conservation and** restoration ~~and reconstruction~~ of culture and heritage. Initiatives such as the recent ~~Team Europe Approach~~**TEA** for Cultural Heritage in Ukraine to respond to attacks on culture in Ukraine, as well as the Cultural Resilience Alliance ~~and the inclusion of cultural heritage protection under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)~~, for example, provide **an approach** ~~a model~~ which is coordinated, effective and scalable. The European Preparedness Union Strategy provides a policy framework for fast and coordinated response to international crises. Bringing together experts in culture and heritage policy and experts in crisis preparedness and response, this OMC will seek to outline recommendations for a dynamic, responsive and impactful model for coordinating the EU's response to international threats to ~~humanity's~~ shared cultural heritage. ~~In addition, t~~**T**he OMC should address crisis preparedness, risk management and emergency responses for both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, also taking into account digital preservation technologies, where applicable.

Target Outputs: Expert report outlining key recommendations and tools **for cultural heritage crisis preparedness and risk management** ~~for emergency management and disaster preparedness~~ to develop a more strategic, rapid, effective and responsive approach to the safeguarding of culture and tangible and intangible heritage.

*iii) Artistic Freedom: ~~Strengthening national and EU approaches~~ **Enhancing capacities to safeguard**~~ing~~ artistic freedom*

Rationale: **Given the role of culture and the arts in upholding European values and democratic resilience, strengthening artistic freedom is of particular importance. As a fundamental right, artistic freedom enables free and pluralistic expression, dialogue and civic participation. Furthermore,** ~~A~~**a**rtistic freedom has been identified as a key concern for the Work Plan in consultations with Member States and stakeholders from the CCS**, with artists and cultural professionals increasingly subjected to direct and indirect pressures**. ~~At the same time, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights is preparing a report to be presented in 2026 while multilateral organisations including the Council of Europe and UNESCO continue to develop initiatives in this field.~~

Objective: This OMC exercise should bring together experts in cultural policy, human rights ~~and~~ **or** justice policy alongside representatives of relevant international organisations, including the Council of Europe and UNESCO**, who already implement reporting and mapping activities and are developing policy standard-setting in this field**. The OMC should facilitate the exchange **on existing frameworks, initiatives and** ~~of~~ good practices **at national and multilateral level** ~~between Member States~~ and explore measures to safeguard artistic freedom and promote enabling environments for artistic creation. The OMC should examine existing approaches to monitoring and reporting on artistic freedom at national, European and international level **and should identify gaps hindering the development of effective policy responses to protect artistic freedom.** ~~and assess the feasibility of developing a framework for evidence-gathering and policy learning~~. Such work should seek to complement, and avoid duplication of, existing initiatives undertaken by the Council of Europe, UNESCO**,** ~~and~~ relevant civil society organisations **and academia**. The OMC **group** should also consider how Council actions in the field of artistic freedom can provide added value, and contribute to wider European cultural policy objectives, including the development of the 'State of Culture' reports[16].

Target Outputs: ~~OMC~~ **Expert** report ~~mapping national approaches to and challenges in safeguarding artistic freedom; and~~ outlining key recommendations for Member States and the EU on ~~safeguarding and protecting artistic freedom, recommendations on voluntary~~ **possible** approaches to evidence-gathering, monitoring and reporting on artistic freedom**. This report should** build~~ing~~ on, and avoid~~ing~~ duplication with, existing international **standard-setting** frameworks**, such as those of** ~~;~~ ~~strengthened cooperation with~~ the Council of Europe and UNESCO ~~with the aim of supporting existing initiatives~~ and identify~~ing~~ opportunities for future joint initiatives.

[16] ~~See~~ **To be developed by the Commission under the** ~~e~~**C**ulture Compass **for Europe** ~~flagship action #2~~.

D. Expert networks and Exchanges

i) EU Cultural Data Hub ~~– National~~ Network

Rationale: Ongoing work is required in order to develop data collection, research and monitoring capabilities in the field of culture across the Union. The Joint Declaration sets out a collective commitment to "Advanc[e] initiatives aimed at improving the availability of sound and comparable data on culture to support the development of evidence-based cultural policies." In line with this, the Commission has committed to developing a new EU Cultural Data Hub.

Objective: Provide a forum for **Member States and the Commission to** share~~ing of~~ best practice, **test ideas and address gaps in measuring the CCS at EU level** ~~including from experts in the field, with a view to building greater coherence and alignment for work on cultural data, as appropriate.~~ The network's activities will be complementary to existing work on official statistics and should support evidence-based policymaking, **including through voluntary exchange of practices on common metrics, interoperability and responsible data governance. The related activities should also inform the development of the EU Cultural Data Hub. The objectives and remit of the network should be developed in the CAC prior to the start of its activities.**

Target Output: A network ~~that enables~~ **of** Member States**' experts working on CCS data to exchange bilaterally or multilaterally on a voluntary and ad-hoc basis** ~~to input the EU Cultural Data Hub and contributes to improving data and evidence in the field of culture~~.

*ii) ~~ICR Network Structures~~ **Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) on ICR, including a Steering Committee***

~~A) Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) on ICR~~

Rationale: Taking into account the recommendations of the OMC on Governance of ICR, and in order to support the continuity of discussions and forward planning of agendas, regular SOMs on ICR ~~should~~ **may** be held every six months **at the initiative of the Presidency. In order to ensure continuity between SOMs with forward planning topics and agendas, an informal SOM steering committee will support the organisation of regular SOMs. Cooperating on a voluntary basis, the committee will be** ~~with the support of a SOM steering committee~~ composed of experts in the field of culture and external relations from **interested** Member States**, Commission services and the EEAS, as relevant, from both culture and foreign affairs to reflect the shared policy field of ICR.** ~~on a voluntary basis.~~

Target output: Regular meetings to support continuity, strategic planning and policy coordination.

~~B) Steering Committee for SOMs~~

~~*Rationale*: A network of experts in culture and external relations will be convened in the form of a steering committee to support the ICR strategic framework with complementary expertise. The committee will operate on a voluntary basis and will comprise interested Member States and Commission services and the EEAS, as relevant. The committee will be co-chaired by representatives from culture and foreign affairs to reflect the inter-ministerial structure of the SOMs and the shared policy field of ICR.~~

~~*Target output*: Continuity between the agendas of the SOMs in line with the long-term strategic framework for ICR, support preparation of SOM agendas.~~

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E. Follow-up to previous OMCs

A key lesson learned from the Work Plan 2023-2026 was the need that networks developed by OMC groups continue to operate beyond the OMC report and to allow for continued engagement to encourage implementation of recommendations[17]. The Work Plan 2027-2030 will seek to ensure continuity and delivery under thematic focuses of recent OMCs ~~(Culture and Health, Greening of CCS, Libraries)~~ through actions including possible (i) stocktaking exercises, (ii) informal exchanges of views at the CAC to share updates on the national and EU-wide implementation of recommendations; and (iii) feeding recommendations from OMC exercises into other policy development processes.

F. Guest presentations / oral exchanges at the CAC

Objective: For topics relating to culture addressed in other Council preparatory bodies, or externally, "exchanges of views" are to provide a model for informal assessment of policy in the field and sharing of updates. An indicative list of topics could include:

- *Ukraine: culture, cultural heritage and recovery*

Exchanges of views in the CAC ~~to review the implementation of the Team Europe Approach~~ **on** ~~(~~T~~.~~E~~.~~A~~.)~~ and other support measures~~, for example, the Culture Resilience Alliance and Ukraine Cultural Heritage Fund~~ to assess and identify additional needs and opportunities for cooperation in support to Ukraine in the fields of culture and heritage.

- *Cultural rights, cultural democracy and socially engaged arts: Sharing of best practices*

Discussion in the CAC with input from relevant international stakeholders, including the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights.

- *Competitiveness and cultural dimensions of the European video games sector*

Exchange of views at a joint meeting of the CAC and Audiovisual and Media Working Party.

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[17] See Commission Report.

- *Architecture policy, high-quality living environment for everyone and New European Bauhaus*

Exchange of views at a joint meeting of the CAC and the Working Party on the Environment**, with input from** ~~and~~ other relevant stakeholders ~~such as the EDAP network~~.

- *Copyright – presentation from other working parties*

Exchange of views at a joint meeting of the CAC and Working Party on Intellectual Property (Copyright).

- *Culture, European History and Remembrance*

Exchange of views at the CAC to include relevant stakeholders in international affairs, relevant EU bodies, or others.

The list above does not preclude Presidencies from addressing other relevant topics, as deemed appropriate. ~~Other possible topics: ICR, Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods, Crisis Preparedness, Response to ongoing or emerging international events, sectoral discussions (for example, music, performing arts, Audiovisual/film, design, others).~~

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G. Other actions ~~Presidency Conferences and Council Conclusions~~

In line with previous EU Work Plans for Culture, ~~Presidency~~ conferences, seminars and other **actions** ~~Presidency-led activities~~ will continue to contribute to the implementation of the Work Plan and to the exploration of priority themes.

While maintaining the need for flexibility and responsiveness under this Work Plan, indicative themes for Presidency-led initiatives, and possible Council outputs could include:

- ~~EU Libraries Policy Forum on t~~**T**he contribution of **libraries and media** ~~culture~~ to societal resilience, ~~integrating two policy fields - libraries and media~~;
- Safeguarding of cultural heritage ~~(incl. climate)~~ and illicit trafficking;
- ~~Cultural Diplomacy and~~ International **Cultural** Relations;
- Skills and cultural professions in times of transition;
- ~~Joint conference and Council conclusions for~~ Copyright and Culture ~~to address overlapping issues especially regarding AI and usage of works of authors~~;
- Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- A ~~powerful~~ cultural ecosystem for **societal resilience and sustainability** ~~a resilient and sustainable society~~;
- The role of culture in enhancing wellbeing, civic participation, and community resilience;
- Underwater cultural heritage;
- Culture and sustainable tourism.

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Indicative timetable of the EU Work Plan for Culture 2027–2030

	2027		2028		2029		2030	
	H1	**H2**	**H1**	**H2**	**H1**	**H2**	**H1**	**H2**
A. Strengthening European values and cultural rights								
Artistic Freedom					OMC			
Access to Culture			PLA					
Libraries	Conference (poss.)					Stocktaking		
Cultural Rights		CAC: Guest Presentation/ Oral Exchange						
B. Empowering artists and cultural professionals								
Culture and Health			Workshop/PLA	Stocktaking				
Culture and Health			MS input to Compass Strategy					
Status and Working Conditions		MS input to Compass Strategy	Stocktaking					
Skills and Training			Conference (poss.)					

Wellbeing, civic participation, and community resilience.								Conference and conclusions (poss.)
C. Culture and competitiveness, resilience and cohesion								
Culture Financing	OMC				Workshop/PLA			
Crisis Preparedness/Conflict			OMC					
Cultural Data		Expert Network						
Artificial Intelligence	MS input to Compass Strategy	Workshop (CION-led) - AI and Jobs Displacement	CAC: Guest Presentation/Oral Exchange (AI and Copyright)	Workshop (CION-led) - Implementation of AI Strategy		Workshop (CION-led) - AI and Cultural Diversity	Conference (poss.)	
Climate/Preparedness		Conference and Council Conclusions (poss.)						PLA
Greening of CCS								Stocktaking
Video Games Sector			CAC: Guest Presentation/Oral Exchange					

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Music Sector				CAC: Guest Presentation/Oral Exchange				
Architecture Policy	EFAP meeting	EFAP meeting	EFAP meeting	EFAP meeting	EFAP meeting; CAC: Guest Presentation/Oral Exchange	EFAP meeting	EFAP meeting	EFAP meeting
CCS Competitiveness	Conference (poss.)							
D. International cultural relations and partnerships								
Illicit Trafficking							Workshop/ PLA	
Ukraine	T.E.A	T.E.A	T.E.A	T.E.A	T.E.A	T.E.A	T.E.A	T.E.A
ICR	SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM
ICR		MS input to Compass Strategy	Conference and Council Conclusions (poss.)					
MONDIACULT/Culture and Sustainable Development				Conference (poss.)				

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Guidelines relating to working methods

General principles

- Actions under the Work Plan should be implemented in a flexible manner and in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.
- Participation is voluntary and, when relevant, based on Member State nominations.
- **Actions under the Work Plan should not unduly increase administrative burden for Member States and stakeholders.**
- The Commission may ~~provide expertise, including logistical or funding~~ support~~, as appropriate, to~~ **the** implementation of the Work Plan **by providing expertise and, where appropriate, logistical or financial support**.
- Where appropriate, outcomes of actions carried out under the Work Plan may be presented to the CAC, other **Council** ~~relevant~~ preparatory bodies ~~of Council and~~ **or the** Council itself.
- Actions under the Work Plan may inform future policy development and recommendations.
- Presidencies, Member States and the Commission should seek to ensure coherence between actions under this Work Plan and other relevant initiatives.

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Policy Dialogues

- Policy Dialogues will be organised by the Commission, though individual Member State or Presidencies may propose a particular topic of focus**, including in relation to relevant initiatives adopted at national level.**
- Policy Dialogues should bring together relevant policymakers, experts, and**, where appropriate,** stakeholders.
- **The Commission will provide a report on the outcomes of the Policy Dialogues.**

Peer Learning Activities (PLAs)/ ~~Other~~ Workshops

- PLAs comprise Member State-led voluntary peer exchanges and provide a flexible format for Member States to share best practice and experience.
- **A Member State or a group of interested Member States may, if they deem it necessary, propose a PLA. If the budgetary conditions are met, the Commission may provide financial support for up to four PLAs.**
- Workshops are Commission-led exchanges bringing together Member States, experts, and stakeholders.

Open Method of Coordination (OMC)

- The OMC provides a framework for cooperation, exchange and sharing good practices among Member States on certain common topics and allows for the development of non-binding recommendations.
- The OMC mandate will be finalised in the CAC – with input from the relevant other Working Parties, as appropriate, on the basis of a draft mandate proposed by the Commission.
- The mandate can propose that third parties, including third countries, be invited to an OMC group.
- Each OMC group will be responsible for appointing a chair or co-chairs at ~~the~~ **its** first expert group meeting.

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- Depending on the topic, the OMC group might be encouraged to form smaller focus groups and use participatory methods, where appropriate.

Experts Networks and Exchanges

- Expert networks and exchanges may be used where continuous cooperation, information-sharing or coordination is required.

- Nomination of relevant experts to these networks and exchanges shall be made by Member States and the Commission, as appropriate.

Follow-up to previous OMCs

- Where appropriate, Member States or the Commission may organise stocktaking exercises, exchanges of views or other follow-up activities on topics addressed in OMCs under the Work Plan 2023-2026 **or preceding Work Plans**.

- These exercises should assess implementation gaps, identify follow-up responsibilities and establish links to future EU and national policy development.

Guest presentations / oral exchanges at the CAC

- Exchanges of views may be organised to facilitate discussion of emerging issues and developments in **culture-**related policy fields.

- Such exchanges may include contributions from external experts **and**~~,~~ stakeholders**, as well as from** ~~and~~ representatives of other relevant Council preparatory bodies.

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Main Political References

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- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (OJ 2012/C 326/02)
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- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Culture Compass for Europe (2025) (doc. 15410/25)
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, on the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods (COM(2022) 800 final)
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, AI Continent Action Plan (COM (2025) 165 final)
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, A New European Agenda for Culture (COM(2018) 267 final)
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Empty, New European Bauhaus Beautiful, Sustainable, Together (COM(2021) 573 final)
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- Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions on the European Preparedness Union Strategy (JOIN(2025) 130 final)
- Council conclusions on assessment of the legal framework for audiovisual media services and video-sharing platform services (OJ C 2954, 26.5.2025)
- Council conclusions on at-risk and displaced artists (OJ C 185/39, 26.5.203)
- Council conclusions on Cultural Governance (OJ C 393/8, 19.12.2012)
- Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative (OJ C 501 1/13 13.12.2021)
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- Council conclusions on enhancing the cultural and creative dimension of the European video games sector (OJ C 1 345, 30.11.203)
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- Council conclusions on improving and fostering access to culture (OJ C 7446, 13.12.2024)
- Council conclusions on supporting young artists and cultural and creative professionals in starting their careers (OJ C 3165, 4.6.2025)

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- Council conclusions on the strategic role of culture, cultural heritage and audiovisual works in upholding European Values and democratic resilience (OJ C 6562, 10.12.2025)
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- Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural heritage of Europe (Granada Convention, 1985)
- Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia, 2017)
- Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)
- Council of Europe Landscape Convention, as amended by the 2016 Protocol, promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and organises co-operation between the Parties (Florence Convention, 2000)
- Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026, 2022 (OJ C 466/01)
- Davos Declaration (Switzerland, 2018)
- EU AI Pact, Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (OJ L 2024/1689)
- EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life 2021 – 2030 (adopted on 5 October 2021)

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