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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Cultural institutions in the energy crisis
– *Information from the German delegation*

Delegations will find attached an information note from the German delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under ‘Any other business’ for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 28-29 November 2022.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE ENERGY CRISIS

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in violation of international law is having a considerable impact on energy security, especially on the supply of natural gas. This crisis also has consequences for cultural institutions.

Many Member States are seeking ways for cultural institutions such as museums, libraries and archives to save energy while continuing to perform their most important tasks. Many of these institutions hold cultural objects that bear witness to the past and the present in important ways. Such objects represent values and traditions; they convey knowledge and shape identity. These institutions are also places where people seek refuge, protection and a sense of comfort.

Through this contribution, Germany wishes to draw attention to the important role that cultural institutions play as social settings too. In the light of the energy crisis caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and in view of the coming winter, we must ensure that our cultural institutions are able to fulfil both their cultural role and their social role. More exchange at the level of European cultural policy can achieve a great deal: we can all learn from the national-level policy and operational measures that Member States have adopted regarding cultural institutions. These perspectives can also help us give due consideration to culture when setting the legal framework at EU level and in the Member States. Germany proposes an intensive European exchange on this matter. The measures set forth in the Council Work Plan for Culture are an important step here.