Council of the
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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Selection of the city of Liepāja as the European Capital of Culture 2027 – *Information from the Latvian delegation*

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Latvian 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.

ANNEX

SELECTION OF LIEPĀJA AS THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2027

Information note from the Latvian delegation

Latvia is one of the two Member States that are eligible to host the European Capital of Culture in 2027. In total, 9 Latvian cities participated in the first round of the competition. On 10 May 2022 the panel of independent experts appointed to take part in the selection procedure recommended the city of Liepāja for the title. Latvia designated the city of Liepāja as the title-holder on 21 June 2022.

The city of Liepāja's bid met all six criteria and was approved. Liepāja's theme – (un)rest – is inspired by the wind, which blows strongly in the city and, more metaphorically, from the city towards Europe and the world, and the city's theme is also associated with the universal cycle of rest and unrest. The concept of '(un)rest' encompasses the new reality in Europe where cultural competences must play an even bigger role in seeking solutions to societal 'rest and unrest'. This is an important message that has become ever more pressing in recent times. In addition, the metaphor of '(un)rest' was appreciated for being both poetic and for having local roots. It was also noted that the cultural and creative sector in Liepāja is one of the most vibrant and dynamic in Latvia.

In the meeting of the EYCS Council, Latvia would like to inform delegations about the bidding process and Liepājas' rich cultural programmes for this special year.

You are all cordially invited to visit Liepāja in 2027 to experience its multifaceted, exciting and creative offer!