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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: The selection of the European Capital of Culture 2028,
České Budějovice
- Information from the Czech delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Czech 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 24 November 2023.

THE SELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2028

ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

Information Note from the Czech Delegation

The Czech Republic is one of the two Member States that are eligible to host the European Capital of Culture in 2028 (the second state is France where the final selection meeting will take place in December 2023). In total, four Czech cities participated in the first round of the competition, which started on 14 October 2022. Two cities were appointed to take part in the second round and, after the final hearings, the Panel of independent international experts recommended the city of České Budějovice for the title on 30 June 2023. Based on the Panel's recommendation, the Czech Minister of Culture designated the city of České Budějovice as the title-holder.

According to the Panel's final report, the candidacy of České Budějovice has been deepened, exhibiting in artistic vision and cultural significance. The European dimension has been further developed since the pre-selection stage and the same applies to the outreach capacity, all while managing to reinforce the overall project despite budget cuts.

The Budweis candidacy is presented under the title “Creating a (Perma) Culture Environment”, meant as a call to action to create “a synergy between artists, culture organisations, local residents and international guests”. In this way, the programme aims at cultivating an environment where change can thrive. The concept is rooted in the idea that Budweis is a city where the cultural landscape, natural environment, and culture have always coexisted in symbiosis. To achieve this ambitious goal, the candidacy is based on the three principles of CARE (enhancing cultural accessibility to all city residents and international visitors), CONNECT (increasing residents’ sense of belonging to their living environments, the region and Europe) and CREATE (encouraging cross-disciplinary collaboration while promoting a culture of co-creation). The bid of Budweis is presented in synergy with the South Bohemian Region.

In the meeting of the EYCS Council, the Czech delegation would like to inform all delegations about the bidding process and the artistic and cultural offer of the city České Budějovice for 2028.
