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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Designation of Évora as European Capital of Culture 2027
- Information from the Portuguese delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Portuguese 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 15-16 May 2023.

DESIGNATION OF ÉVORA AS EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE IN 2027

Information note from the Portuguese delegation

Portugal is one of the two Member States that are eligible to host the European Capital of Culture in 2027. In total, 12 Portuguese cities participated in the first round of the competition, which started on 23 November 2020. Four cities were appointed to take part in the second round and, after the final hearings, the Panel of independent experts recommended the city of Évora for the title on 7 December 2022. Based on the Panel's recommendation, the Portuguese Minister of Culture designated the city of Évora as the title-holder on 14 February 2023.

According to the Panel's final report, the candidacy of Évora has been deepened and strengthened to reach the high standards of an ECoC programme, with an impressive improvement in terms of artistic vision and cultural value, European dimension and outreach capacity, at the same time clearly strengthening the regional commitment. Évora's theme – *Vagar* – is a poetic and philosophical concept which comes from an ancestral way of being and living that remains in both Évora city and Alentejo region. *Vagar* invites people to live life more calmly and be one with the nature and the universe. *Vagar* is expressed in interpersonal relationships, in speech, in the poetry of the *Cante Alentejano* (which is UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity), in the preservation of the heritage left by the civilizations that passed by the south of Portugal (like the Celts and the Muslims), in the people's connection with nature, light and sky, and in artistic creation. We also note that the historic centre of Évora belongs to the UNESCO's World Heritage since 1986. Évora is very well known as "city-museum" due to its impressive architectural heritage.

In the meeting of the EYCS Council, Portugal would like to inform delegations about the bidding process and Évora's artistic and cultural offer for 2027.

You are all cordially invited to visit Évora, as European Capital of Culture, in 2027, and to experience the *Vagar*'s way of living, the tranquility of nature and the rich cultural programme of the city.