



MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Final Statement

## 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture

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Promoting Access to Culture  
15-16 April 2013

Governance of Culture –  
Moscow



Faced with immense economic, social and cultural challenges, we, Ministers responsible for Culture, meeting in Moscow from 15 to 16 April 2013, need to mobilise the assets that assure the vitality of the cultural sector and:

- Affirm our commitment to the fundamental values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as the basis of the Council of Europe, for all our policies and decision-making in the areas of culture and participation in cultural life;
- Acknowledge the Council of Europe's position as a unique pan-European organisation for intergovernmental co-operation in the field of culture, and its role in promoting and setting standards of democratic governance;
- Stress the importance of access to culture and participation in cultural life for enhancing democratic citizenship and social cohesion, and as a significant factor for cultural diversity, cultural exchange and dialogue, thus contributing to democratic stability, sustainable development and in line with the Council of Europe's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue "Living together as equals in dignity";
- Insist on the need to reflect on the consequences of changes in cultural production, consumption and in the means by which culture is diffused, especially through the digital revolution, which influence strongly the cultural environment;
- Underline the need to promote free access to culture, participation in cultural life and freedom of cultural expression and creation<sup>1</sup> and to promote creativity and cultural diversity. The creation of cultural works must be more than ever recognised as a major stake as it contributes to Europe's creative radiance in the world as well as its prosperity;
- Stress the importance of the digital revolution which remains crucial to the viability of creation and cultural diversity. Europe without modern and ambitious copyright law would be a continent condemned to consume imported and standardised contents, neglecting the European cultural heritage and thus no longer renewing or enriching it.

We agree to advance together in synergy within the Council of Europe to strengthen access to culture and participation in cultural life, also taking into account cultural diversity and the possibilities and challenges of the digital technologies, and to enhance the contribution of culture to democracy and democratic governance – within the budget realities of the Council of Europe – by:

- Fostering cultural policies that promote free access to culture, freedom of cultural expression and creation, as well as a multi-level governance perspective (which involves regional and local authorities) and multi-stakeholder approach (in which civil society, including independent cultural organisations, and other private/business players are involved alongside governments);
- Developing cultural policies that take into account the diversity of cultural traditions across Europe, break down barriers of misunderstanding and prejudice, and seek to foster greater tolerance and appreciation of different national and regional perspectives as well as exchanges among them;
- Adapting cultural policies to a changing social and economic environment, including demographic changes, challenges triggered by the economic crisis and opportunities offered by the new digital technologies for access to culture and for cultural diversity.

We invite the Council of Europe, in the framework of the implementation of the Warsaw Declaration and the Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Council of Europe<sup>2</sup> and in close co-operation with its partners:

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<sup>1</sup> In line with the European Convention on Human Rights

<sup>2</sup> With specific regard to the Warsaw Declaration's and the Action Plan's provisions concerning fostering European identity and unity, based on shared fundamental values, respect for our common heritage and cultural diversity as well as fostering dialogue on the role of culture in contemporary Europe, defining ways to support diversity and artistic creativity, defending culture as a purveyor of values, enhancing access to cultural achievements and heritage by promoting cultural activities and exchanges.

- To encourage respect for our common cultural heritage and diversity; to favour dialogue on the role of culture in contemporary Europe; to define means to support diversity and artistic creation; to defend culture as a vector for values; to facilitate access to cultural creations and heritage by promoting cultural activities and exchanges;
- To launch a medium-term working process that should include work on indicators of the impact of cultural activities on democracy as well as the economic efficiency of financing culture in order to improve the effectiveness of cultural policies, to map related trends and developments at pan-European level with special regard to access to and participation in culture and help generate harmonised national and European surveys;
- To offer a platform for the exchange of experiences and good practices for policy makers, for co-operation for practitioners and civil society, on the impact of digitisation on culture and to study common European orientations for promoting – in full respect of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention for Human Rights, and of cultural diversity, especially on the Internet – the democratic governance of culture by ensuring, in particular, citizens' access to, and participation in, culture in the digital era.
- To hold in-depth debates and exchange opinions on the progress achieved in the area of access to culture and freedom of cultural expression and creation;
- To integrate these topics in the measurable and outcome-oriented Council of Europe co-operation activities for the upcoming biennium;
- To agree to advance in synergy with international partners, including the UNESCO, the OECD and the European Union, in cultural co-operation matters and further develop such co-operation in the framework of existing and forthcoming programmes;
- To develop all of these initiatives in such a way that their implementation and concrete results can be evaluated.

We, Ministers responsible for Culture, warmly thank the Russian Federation for having organised this conference.