

**EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE  
SUMMER SESSION  
CONF/EDUC(2018)OJ2**

**DRAFT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE MEETING  
14:30 – 18:00, room G02 – Agora**

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chairwoman, Mme Claude Vivier Le Got
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Designation of a rapporteur
4. Debate on European Cultural Identity

14:30-16:30

**Framework text**

The Education and Culture Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe has begun a three-year mandate during which it will focus on producing a multifaceted publication setting out an up-to-date definition of European cultural identity.

The above focus has been chosen in the light of worrying developments:

- the return of populist movements, which, in turn imply the existence of an identity crisis in Europe.<sup>1</sup> The discrepancy in Europe between the economic and political spheres is pushing our societies towards openly national/nationalist isolationism rather than harmonious living and is creating a vacuum for the growth of populist parties. We have a duty, as defenders of interculturalism, to respond to our populations' thirst for identity not by dividing our citizens, but by bringing them together.
- In a context where globalisation has led to imbalances, populism and violence, the Council of Europe is a benchmark for unity, vigilance and solution-finding, both reducing discord and guaranteeing the protection of human rights. As defenders of the rule of law and the values of democracy, we have a duty to propose a modern account of the various ingredients of European cultural identity.

The definition we build will aim to reflect European plurality and perpetual construction, bringing together past and future, memory and change. It will include the roots of European tangible and intangible heritage, such as humanism, democracy, citizenship and human rights, all of which are defended by the Council of Europe. It will strive to promote intercultural dialogue. It will include the idea that Europe is a living organism evolving in a constantly changing, even unstable, environment. Our ability to transform destabilising factors, such as the arrival of new populations, into opportunities depends on the robustness of our shared convictions.

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<sup>1</sup> Thierry Chopin, 'L'Europe face au défi de l'identité : qui sommes "nous" ?' [The Challenge of European Identity: Who are "We"?], *Question d'Europe*, n°466, Fondation Robert-Schuman, 19 March 2018

Our aim is therefore the following: to generate from within civil society a multifaceted definition of European cultural identity that will renew our shared values. Terms such as 'definition' and 'identity', which are inherently rigid, must not mislead: we do not aim to inscribe who we are in stone. The proposed publication aims to provide food for thought that everyone (individuals, towns, states, institutions) may appropriate, thus encouraging a variety of unique, open-minded and civic approaches to diversity in our contemporary intercultural world.

In this context, the Education and Culture Committee has decided to organise a discussion between INGOs and European political actors (ambassadors, ex-ministers etc.) on the construction of these modern foundations of European cultural identity.

### **Confirmed and attending guests**

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe and President of La Maison de l'Europe

M. Miroslav PAPA, Permanent Representative of Croatia (the State chairing the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for the period from 18 May to 21 November 2018)

M. Jean-Baptiste MATTEI, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

Mgr Paolo RUDELLI, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Council of Europe

Mrs Aurélie FILIPPETTI, former French Minister of Culture

Mrs Yasmina BENGUIGUI, president of the Robert Schuman Institute for Europe

M. Philippe POTENTINI, representative of the Intercultural Cities section, Directorate of Communications of the Council of Europe

Mr Christophe GIRARD, founder of the Nuit Blanche festival and Deputy Mayor of Paris (part of the Council of Europe intercultural cities network)

Mrs Joanna NOWICKI, university professor (UCP et à Sciences Po Saint-Germain-en-Laye) specialising in cultural areas and the movement and history of ideas

The framework text is available on the agenda created by the French Minister of Culture for the European Year of Cultural Heritage

<https://patrimoineurope2018.culture.gouv.fr/Projets-labellises#/events/852968>

## 5. Discussion on Lifelong Learning

16:45-17:45

Mr David LOPEZ, President of the Lifelong Learning Platform, will give an overview of the different ways of conceiving of adult education in Europe and will talk to INGOs about non-formal education activities that reach adults and enable them to join a new professional or educational path.

The Lifelong Learning working group, which will have met on Monday 25 June, and all the INGOs of the Education and Culture Committee will be invited to contribute their thoughts on this subject.

The Working Group on Lifelong Learning follows the common thread of the Education and Culture Committee on European cultural identity by examining the access of all to the values on which our democracies and the Council of Europe are built.

## 6. Adoption of the reports (sent to the INGOs who gave their contacts during the winter session) available on Loomio

<https://www.loomio.org/d/fcPwpsg7/documents-winter-session-session-d-hiver>

## 7. Report of the meetings of the CDPPE and CDCPP

## 8. Information on the second meeting on European cultural identity

## 9. Training on how to use Loomio

## 10. Miscellaneous