



Conference on No Culture ↔ No Democracy

Strasbourg, 12 December 2024

Committee of Ministers room, Strasbourg

9.30-13.00

DRAFT PROGRAMME

In 2024, the Council of Europe celebrates the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention.

The adoption of this Convention as one of the first treaties following the European Convention on Human Rights reflects the political commitment of the Governments of the founding Member States “*to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage*”, in part through cultural policy.¹

Today, as the Council of Europe implements the decisions taken at the Reykjavík Summit, and particularly the Principles for Democracy, this commitment is necessary more than ever before. This commitment must be reaffirmed, as without culture, the common values which form the foundation of the Council of Europe, are at risk.

Culture is a driver of curiosity, the very curiosity that underpins diversity and pluralism. Culture brings forth the spirit that promotes critical thinking. Culture represents the creativity that generates innovative solutions.

As we look for intergovernmental fora to counter democratic backsliding and other threats to our common principles, culture is an essential element in a transversal response. As such, the capacity of artists and cultural professionals to speak and work freely, to see their freedoms protected, is vital. This is all the more so as it is they who provide us with the building blocks of cultural and societal evolution. If they are restricted, all of society is restricted. Therefore, in our quest to strengthen the Council of Europe and its work in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, culture must be taken into consideration with renewed attention and commitment.

It is for these reasons that the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers has elected to anchor culture as one of the priorities of its Presidency, thereby underlining the intrinsic relation between culture, democracy, and human rights.

¹ Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe.

9.30 - 11.00 70 years of the European Cultural Convention: culture between the past and future of democracy in Europe

Moderated by **Ambassador Patrick Engelberg**, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe and chair of the Committee of Ministers

WELCOME AND OPENING STATEMENTS

- **Mr Eric THILL**, Minister for Culture of Luxembourg
- **Mr Alain BERSET**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

KEYNOTE ON CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY

- **Professor Helmut K. ANHEIER**, Senior Professor of Sociology and President (2009-2018) at the Hertie School Berlin

MINISTERS FOR CULTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Mr Owen BONNICI**, Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government of Malta
- **Mr Mykola TOCHYTSKYI**, Minister of Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine
- **Mr Eric THILL**, Minister for Culture of Luxembourg

DÉMOCRÉATION : AN ARTISTIC PROJECT COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY AND DEMOCRACY

- **Ambassador Gilberto JERÓNIMO**, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe and chair of the Strasbourg EUNIC cluster

11.15 - 13.00 Free to create, create to be free: freedom of artistic expression, a yardstick for democracy caught between violations and tensions

Moderated by **Mr Matjaž GRUDEN**, Director for Democracy

KEYNOTE: FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION IN EUROPE TODAY – PRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE REPORT

- **Ms Sara WHYATT**, author and researcher on freedom of artistic expression and human rights.

FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: PRESENTATION OF CURRENT WORK AND FUTURE PLANS

- **Dr Katalin KRASZNAHORKAI**, art historian, author, curator of the Council of Europe digital exhibition

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH ARTISTS AND CULTURAL RESEARCHERS ON DEGREES AND NUANCES OF FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AND DISCUSSION WITH THE DELEGATIONS

- **Mr Uladzimir HRAMOVICH**, Belarusian visual artist and curator
- **Mr Filip MARKIEWICZ**, Luxembourgish visual artist, writer & composer, film and theatre director
- **Ms Kristina-Kateryna MYGUL**, Ukrainian visual artist
- **Ms Ulrike BLUMENREICH** and **Mr Oliver GÖBEL**, Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends

13.00 – 14.30 **BUFFET LUNCH (Committee of Ministers Foyer)**