

CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AS A PLATFORM FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

PARLIAMENTARY ROUND TABLE

organised by the PACE Parliamentary and Electoral Cooperation Division
in collaboration with the Luxembourg Delegation to PACE

Date/Time: 29 November 2024 from 16:30 to 18:00

Venue: Neumünster Abbaye, 28 rue Münster, L-2160 Luxembourg

Background

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe embody a collective endeavor to preserve, celebrate and promote the diverse cultural heritage of Europe. Since the creation of the Cultural Routes Programme in 1987, the number of Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe has expanded to 47 to date, covering a range of different themes, from architecture and landscape to religious influences, from gastronomy and intangible heritage to major figures of European art, music, and literature. The routes bring people and places together in networks of shared history and heritage. The programme has evolved into a dynamic platform for fostering intercultural dialogue, transcending geographical and historical boundaries to unite nations and peoples through shared heritage. Rooted in the belief that cultural exchange is a catalyst for mutual understanding and cooperation, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe stands as a testament to Europe's commitment to preserving its rich tapestry of traditions, languages, and customs.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in its Resolution 2488 (2023)1 – The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: a platform for intercultural dialogue – underlined the importance of cultural heritage for achieving a greater unity among Europeans. Against the backdrop of contemporary challenges, including social fragmentation, migration, and globalisation, the event will provide a forum for parliamentarians, policymakers, cultural practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders to explore innovative strategies for leveraging the Cultural Routes as vehicles for peacebuilding, reconciliation, and sustainable development.

The Round Table will aim to provide a forum to:

- i. Reflect on the transformative power of the Cultural Routes in promoting intercultural dialogue and fostering a sense of belonging and identity among European citizens.
- ii. Promote the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) and encourage Council of Europe member States and partners for democracy to join the Agreement.
- iii. Present good practice of cooperation between the Cultural Routes Programme and local stakeholders.



Opening Session

- ▶ **Claude Wiseler**, President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies
- ▶ **Theodoros Rousopoulos**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Thematic Interventions

- ▶ **Eric Thill**, Minister of Culture of Luxembourg
- ▶ **Andries Gryffroy**, PACE Rapporteur on “The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: a platform for intercultural dialogue”
- ▶ **Meltem Önhon**, Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- ▶ **André Biever**, President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes

Discussion

Conclusions

- ▶ **Gusty Graas**, Chair of the Luxembourg delegation to PACE
- ▶ **Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis**, PACE Secretary General

Moderator

- ▶ **Jim Kent**