



Brussels, 17 November 2008

**INFORMATION NOTE<sup>1</sup>**  
**EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE COUNCIL**  
**Brussels, 20 and 21 November 2008**

**Culture/Audiovisual**

*The Council will commence with a session devoted to **culture** and the **audiovisual** sector at **9.00** on Thursday 20 November, chaired by Ms Christine Albanel, the French Minister for Culture and Communication.*

*The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the "**European heritage label**" and on the promotion of cultural diversity and **intercultural dialogue** in the external relations of the Union and its Member States. The cultural items will be **public**.*

*The Council is also due to adopt conclusions on the **European digital library EUROPEANA** and on the **development of legal offers of online cultural and creative content and prevention and combating of piracy in the digital environment**. The audiovisual items will be **public**.*

*After the meeting, the ministers for culture/audiovisual matters will attend the launch of the prototype of the EUROPEANA European digital library at the Palais de Charles de Lorraine, place du Musée 1, 1000 Brussels. The Presidency will hold a **press briefing there at approximately 14.15**.*

**Youth**

*The meeting will continue at 15.00 with the session on **youth**, chaired by Mr Bernard Laporte, Minister of State with responsibility for Sports, Youth and the Voluntary Sector, attached to the Ministry of Health, Youth, Sport and the Voluntary Sector.*

*The Council is due to adopt a Resolution on the **health and well-being of young people** and a Recommendation on the **mobility of young volunteers across the European Union**. The ministers will also hold a public exchange of views on the future of **European youth policy, focusing on three topics: volunteer activities, structured dialogue with youth organisations and the reconciliation of young people's professional and personal and family life**.*

**Education**

*The session on **education** will commence on Friday 21 November at 10.00 and will be chaired by Mr Xavier Darcos, the French Minister for National Education.*

*On the morning of Friday 21 November, the Council is due to adopt a Resolution on a European strategy for **multilingualism** and conclusions on preparing young people for the 21st century: an agenda for **European cooperation on schools**, a resolution on lifelong guidance and conclusions on enhanced cooperation in vocational education and training.*

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

*The Council will continue its discussions at 15.00 with the adoption of conclusions on the **mobility of young people**, chaired by Ms Valérie Pécresse, Minister for Higher Education and Research.*

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**Presidency press conference** +

**"EUROPEANA" press briefing:** 20 November at approximately 14.15 at the Palais de Charles de Lorraine, Place du Musée 1, 1000 Brussels  
Broadcast by EbS

**Press conferences:**

20 November at approximately 18.00

21 November at approximately 13.00

21 November at approximately 18.00

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***Press conferences and public events can be followed by video streaming:***

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/videostreaming>

## **CULTURE**

Thursday 20 November 2008 at 9.00

### **European heritage label**

The Council is due, in public debate, to adopt conclusions on the creation of a European heritage label ([14397/08](#)).

The European heritage label already exists as a voluntary inter-governmental initiative in which some twenty Member States are participating. The aim of the conclusions is to turn this into a Community action with a view to broadening its scope and to invite the Commission to submit a proposal specifying the practical procedures for the implementation of the project.

The label is intended to emphasise Europe's common history in a concrete way by enhancing the European dimension of its cultural heritage. The label will contribute to enhancing the value and raising the profile of Member States' heritage and that of the shared cultural heritage and, more generally, to the promotion of democratic values and human rights that form the foundation of European integration.

### **Architecture's contribution to sustainable development**

The Council will hold a public debate leading to the adoption of conclusions on architecture's contribution to sustainable development, as the latter is a priority of the French Presidency of the EU.

The contribution which architecture can make to sustainable urban development and to the quality of urban life through its impact on the cultural side of towns and cities and the interdependence of architecture and sustainable development provide the inspiration for these conclusions. The Member States and the Commission are called on to make allowance for architecture and its cultural aspects in all relevant policies and to consider the feasibility of an annual "European architecture day".

### **Promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in the external relations of the Union and its Member States**

It is planned that the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States will, in public debate, adopt conclusions on the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in the external relations of the Union and its Member States ([14884/08](#)).

Those conclusions are a part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 and the follow-up to the Council conclusions on intercultural competences adopted on 21 May last ([9021/08](#)).

The conclusions call on the Member States and the Commission to strengthen the place of culture in the policies and programmes conducted within the framework of external relations and promote cooperation with third countries and international organisations with responsibility in the field of culture. Action by the Member States and the Commission must take the concrete form inter alia of drawing up a general European strategy for incorporating culture systematically in the external relations of the Union and by specific strategies in the areas of cultural relations with regions and countries outside the Union.

## **Multilingualism and translation**

In the course of a public deliberation, the Council is expected to adopt a Resolution on a strategy for multilingualism. The ministers for culture will be invited to discuss the issue of multilingualism, translation and intercultural dialogue on Thursday 20 November; the Resolution will be adopted by the ministers for education on Friday 21 November.

This series of conclusions is the response to a Commission communication entitled "*Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment*" ([13253/08](#)). The Council will moreover hear a presentation by the Commission of this communication.

Linguistic diversity and multilingualism are part and parcel of the European identity. The European Union is fostering a climate that is conducive to expression in all the languages and in which the teaching and learning of different languages may prosper.

The conclusions are an invitation to the Member States and the Commission to:

- promote multilingualism with a view to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and European construction;
- strengthen lifelong language learning;
- better promote multilingualism as a factor in the European economy's competitiveness and people's mobility and employability;
- promote linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue by stepping up assistance for translation in order to encourage the circulation of works and the dissemination of ideas and knowledge in Europe and across the world;
- promote EU languages across the world.

## **AUDIOVISUAL MATTERS**

Thursday 20 November 2008 – morning

### **European digital library EUROPEANA**

On 20 November the prototype of the European digital library Europeana will be launched. On this occasion, the Council will adopt conclusions on this project ([14870/08](#)) during a public deliberation. These conclusions reaffirm the Council's commitment to this project and, more generally, to the digitisation and online accessibility of the cultural material of the EU Member States. They emphasise in particular the need to continue the work and to define a sustainable economic model for Europeana.

Europeana, initiated in July 2007 with financial support from the EU, will offer an online common multilingual access point to digital cultural material from the whole of Europe, i.e. books, newspapers, photographs, films and audiovisual works, documents from archives, museum works, etc.

The prototype of Europeana will, initially, give access to more than two million documents from different European cultural institutions. By 2010, the library should become completely operational, giving everyone access to a collection of more than six million digitised works.

Europeana is one of the initiatives planned in the Council conclusions of November 2006 on digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation. The library complements commercial digitisation products, such as that recently launched by Google which concentrates in books in English. Europeana, however, offers not only books, but a whole range of cultural heritage items in all European languages.

The Europeana library is hosted at the national library of the Netherlands. For more information, see [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu).

After the meeting, the ministers for culture will attend the launch of the prototype of the Europeana European digital library at the Palais de Charles de Lorraine, Place du Musée 1, 1000 Brussels. The Presidency will hold a **press briefing in the Palais at about 14.15**.

### **Legal offers of online cultural and creative content and prevention and combating of piracy in the digital environment**

The Council will, at a public session, adopt conclusions on the development of legal offers of online cultural and creative content ([13605/08](#)). These conclusions invite the Member States and the Commission to promote the development of legal online offers of such content, and at the same time to prevent and combat piracy in the digital environment. Solutions should be sought through the parties concerned (industry, right holders and consumers) working together to ensure the interoperability and transparency of measures to manage and protect rights.

The Council considers the online distribution of creative and cultural goods to be an important means of encouraging universal access to culture and promoting economic development, employment and cultural diversity. On the one hand, it notes that online piracy is reaching a critical threshold in certain sectors, harming the remuneration of copyright holders and thus threatening cultural creativity. Consequently, promotion of the development of legal online offers should be linked to measures against online piracy.

These conclusions are the Council's response to a communication which the Commission submitted on this subject in January 2008 and which aims to respond to challenges of vital importance for the distribution of online content in Europe ([5279/08](#)).

## **YOUTH**

Thursday 20 November 2008 - 15.00

### **Health and well-being of young people**

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States will adopt a Resolution on the health and well-being of young people ([14877/08](#)).

Although on the whole the health of young people in Europe is satisfactory, some aspects of their lives are a cause for particular concern, such as nutrition, physical activity and alcohol abuse. In their Resolution, the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States invite the Member States and the Commission to give greater priority to the "youth" dimension in health policies and to improve the provision of information to, and raise awareness among, all groups on issues relating to the health and well-being of young people.

### **Mobility of young volunteers in Europe**

The Council will adopt a Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the European Union ([15095/08](#)).

Volunteer activities are an enriching experience in an informal educational context, they are of great interest for the local communities where they take place, and they can be an important tool for the promotion of education, employment and social cohesion.

The Recommendation aims principally to define a long-term framework for Member States to intensify their cooperation, and to encourage the Member States and the Commission to step up their efforts to develop possibilities for volunteering in conditions conducive to such activities.

### **Action at European level in the area of youth policy**

During a public debate, the Council will be invited to state its views on certain aspects of the action carried out at European level in the area of youth policy. The Presidency has suggested that the ministers state their views on one of the three topics below, replying to the following questions:

#### *Mobility of young people in the European Union*

Cross-border volunteer activities are one of the priorities of the European Union in the area of youth policy.

- How can the profile of the Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the European Union be raised so that it is implemented in full?
- How can we make sure that the volunteer activities carried out by young people in Europe have real effects on their social and professional integration?
- What partnerships should be developed with undertakings to develop the mobility of young people in Europe?

#### *Future framework for cooperation/Structured dialogue*

The structured dialogue plays a part in taking the views of young people into account in the process of drawing up the decisions that concern them. The framework for European cooperation on youth policy will be revised in 2009.

- How should an effective and constructive dialogue be promoted at European level with young people and their organisations?

#### *European Youth Pact*

The European Youth Pact, in the context of the Lisbon Strategy, promotes the reconciliation of young people's professional and personal and family life.

- How can public policies establish a link between the quest for better employability of young people and their access to leisure and free creativity?

## **EDUCATION**

Friday 21 November 2008 at 10.00

### **Multilingualism**

The Council is expected to adopt a Resolution on a strategy to promote multilingualism, with the "translation" part having first been examined by the culture ministers on Thursday 20 November. For more information, see p. 4.

### **Enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training**

The Council and the representatives of the Member States' governments will be invited to adopt conclusions on the future priorities for enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training ([13593/08](#)).

These draft conclusions form part of the Copenhagen process launched in 2002 following the adoption by the EU Member States, the countries of the European Economic Area, the candidate States and the Commission of a joint declaration on enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training. Since then, ministerial conferences have been held every two years.

The draft conclusions will be used as a basis for the declaration of the next ministerial meeting, to be held in Bordeaux on 25 and 26 November 2008. They confirm the guidelines established under the Copenhagen process since 2002, underlining the importance of addressing the following four priority areas for the period 2008-2010:

- implementing the tools and schemes for promoting cooperation in the field of vocational education and training at national and European level;
- heightening the quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training systems;
- improving the links between vocational education and training and the labour market;
- strengthening European cooperation arrangements.

### **Lifelong guidance in education and training strategies**

The Council will hold a public exchange of views and will be invited to adopt a Resolution on the incorporation of lifelong guidance structures in lifelong education and training strategies ([15030/08](#)).

Growing globalisation and the lengthening of the period of active employment require a constant adaptation of individual skills in order to safeguard career paths. Consequently, guidance – i.e. the continuous process that enables citizens at any age to identify their capacities, competences and interests and to manage their life paths in training and employment – is becoming increasingly important.

The draft Resolution invites the Member States to strengthen the role of lifelong guidance within national lifelong education and training strategies and proposes that they make use of certain guiding principles in that area:

- encourage the lifelong acquisition of career management skills;
- facilitate access by all citizens to guidance services;
- develop the quality assurance of guidance provision;
- encourage coordination and cooperation among the various national, regional and local stakeholders.

A conference on lifelong guidance, organised by the Presidency in Lyons last September, enabled the bases for this draft Resolution to be established.

### **European cooperation on schools**

In the course of a public deliberation, the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States will be called upon to adopt conclusions on "Preparing young people for the 21st century: an agenda for European cooperation on schools" ([14855/08](#)).

These draft conclusions follow on from the Communication from the Commission of 3 July 2008 "Improving competences for the 21st century: An Agenda for European Cooperation on Schools" ([11473/08](#)). These conclusions agree on priorities for European cooperation on schools, as follows:

- to guarantee and improve the acquisition of key competences, in particular literacy and numeracy;
- to enhance the essential role which schools play in promoting inclusive societies and strengthening social cohesion, by ensuring high-quality education for all pupils in accordance with the principle of equity;
- to promote teaching as a profession and to improve initial and in-service training for teaching staff and school leaders.

The conclusions invite the Member States and the Commission to promote these priorities within the framework of the open method of coordination.

### **Youth mobility**

In the course of a public deliberation, the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States will hold an exchange of views and will be called upon to adopt conclusions on youth mobility.

Youth mobility, which is a central component of European cooperation on education and training, is an important tool for fostering a sense of belonging to Europe, promoting occupational integration and ensuring the competitiveness of the European economy.

Whilst the Erasmus programme has been successful, youth mobility nevertheless all too often remains the exception; that is true even for students, of whom only a small proportion travels to another Member State. These draft conclusions are therefore attempting to give a renewed boost to youth mobility in Europe.

The conclusions invite Member States to make periods of learning abroad gradually the rule for all young Europeans. Every schoolchild in general education and every student in higher education should have the opportunity to follow a period of training abroad. The mobility of teachers, trainers and other educational staff should also be increased, in particular through:

- developing scope for mobility for all young persons;
- providing better information about existing mobility programmes;
- simplifying procedures;
- widening and diversifying the sources of funding for youth mobility.

The Council furthermore invites the Commission to establish a work plan to include cross-border mobility measures in all European programmes and explore the feasibility of developing new means of financial support for periods of cross-border learning mobility, including the possibility of "European student loans".

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