

# EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



## **RESOLUTION:**

### **Culture as a means of promoting relations between the European Union and the Latin American and Caribbean countries**

on the basis of the report by the Committee on Social Affairs, Youth and Children, Human Exchanges, Education and Culture

Co-rapporteurs: Sandra Pereira (European Parliament, Portugal)  
Alicia Lisseth Ticona (Parlatino, Bolivia)

**Thursday, 14 April 2022 – Buenos Aires, Argentina**



## **EUROLAT – Resolution of 14 April 2022 – Buenos Aires, Argentina**

on the basis of the report by the Committee on Social Affairs, Youth and Children, Human Exchanges, Education and Culture

### **Culture as a means of promoting relations between the European Union and the Latin American and Caribbean countries**

*The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly,*

- having regard to the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted in Paris in 1972,
- having regard to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted by UNESCO on 20 October 2005,
- having regard to Resolution 65/166, adopted in 2011 by the UN General Assembly on Culture and Development,
- having regard to the Sustainable Development Goals – the 2030 UN Agenda adopted on 25 September 2015,
- having regard to UN Security Council resolution 2347 (2017) of 24 March 2017 concerning the protection of cultural heritage,
- having regard to the resolution on cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 30 September 2016,
- having regard to the 2014 UNESCO Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2014-2024),
- having regard to the Parlatino and UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean project on cultural feasibility in development planning (2002),
- having regard to the Joint Communication of the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) to the European Parliament and the Council of 8 June 2016 entitled ‘Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations’ (JOIN(2016)0029),
- having regard to the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth held in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, to the Leaders’ Agenda on education and culture of November 2017 and to the European Council conclusions of 14 December 2017 on the social dimension of the Union, education and culture,
- having regard to the European Parliament report on Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations (2016/2024(INI)),
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 19 January 2019 on the role of

intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values (2015/2139(INI)),

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 14 June 2018 on structural and financial barriers in the access to culture (2017/2255(INI)),
  - having regard to the Havana Declaration and the CELAC Cultural Action Plan 2015-2020 adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Community,
  - having regard to the Declarations of the XVIII and XIX Fora of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivia, July 2011 and Suriname, March 2013),
  - having regard to the Second Americas Cultural Summit, held in 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina,
- A. whereas the region's commitment to the SDGs, as shown at the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development, complemented by the experience of the European Union, can become a key pillar for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and whereas culture, and in particular cultural diplomacy, is a hugely powerful tool in the external relations of countries whose ultimate aim is to spread knowledge and enhance friendships among people;
- B. whereas Culture, and in particular inter-culture dialogue, is a way to address major global challenges such as conflict prevention and resolution, integrating refugees, countering violent extremism and protecting cultural heritage;
- C. whereas the international community understands that close ties exist between economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights;
- D. whereas the primary objective of promoting interregional relations is human development, based on the common good and on a framework of universal ethical values, in particular respect for diversity, education and the defence of equality and human rights and whereas strengthening these relationships at all levels is key to providing the necessary impetus to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- E. whereas a joint bi-regional effort is needed to address a 'triple transition' aligned with the 2030 Agenda SDGs covering institution-building, digitisation and combating climate change; whereas this transition should encompass the role of culture, as well as the gender perspective, youth and science;
- F. whereas promoting and respecting cultural diversity is key for the development of international relations and trade as culture is a central element in the new economy driven by creativity, innovation and access to knowledge;
- G. whereas in Latin American and Caribbean countries the cultural and creative sectors contribute to promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth promoting job creation and competitiveness;
- H. whereas cultural exchanges also give rise to economic benefits and should be one of the

axes of development in terms of relations between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU and its Member States;

- I. whereas since 2016, the EU has been relegating Latin America and the Caribbean to a peripheral position in its political priorities, and whereas revitalising relations between these regions is absolutely necessary;
- J. whereas revitalising bi-regional relations is a twofold priority owing to the enormous impact of COVID-19 on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which although having 8% of the world's total population, accounts for more than 30% of the global death toll; whereas in socio-economic terms, the region has seen a 7.1% fall in GDP in 2020, a sharp increase in poverty and a marked deterioration in all social indicators;
- K. whereas the processes and effects of globalisation recognise the two-fold nature of cultural goods and services in relation to the economy (generation of wealth and employment) and culture (generation of values, ways and identity), which share a common dimension in terms of marketing, promotion and distribution;
- L. whereas authors, artists, cultural workers and creators make a substantial contribution to the richness and diversity of culture wherever they develop, and also play an important role in the success of the creative sector and the cultural ecosystem as a whole;
- M. whereas the creations and productions of the cultural and creative sectors, as well as their distribution, have been transforming, and that digitisation, technology, media and culture have been incorporating sophisticated processes whose results are disseminated on a large scale in the global market;
- N. whereas the cultural and creative sectors must participate in the global marketplace in a such a way as to respect, disseminate and ensure economic practices that generate sources of revenue for creators, authors, artists and cultural workers, requiring consultation and public-private dialogue and the involvement of national authorities in the educational, cultural, economic and fiscal area;
- O. whereas the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2020, and COVID-19 have effected swingeing changes in the culture sector and highlighted the enormous structural weaknesses in the world of artistic and cultural work in many countries;
- P. whereas artistic and cultural activities have been cancelled and postponed, and cultural facilities closed, exposing in many countries the situation of immense insecurity affecting arts and culture workers, as well as the tremendous instability of the overwhelming majority of structures operating in this area, immediately depriving many professionals in the sector of work or a source of income;
- Q. whereas, in the Americas, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognises the benefits of culture as a way of encouraging people to take part in cultural and artistic life, enjoy the benefits of scientific and technological progress and benefit from the protection of their scientific, artistic or literary production;

- R. whereas the various categories of rights are an indivisible whole whose basis is in the recognition of human dignity;
- S. whereas there is the need to ensure a substantial increase in support for culture and the arts and to democratise access to culture;
- T. whereas a country's heritage consists of both cultural assets and natural assets which form a whole;
- U. whereas culture is a tool to build and strengthen democracy and social order, a source of employment which helps to improve the quality of life of citizens and therefore increase social inclusion and support cultural diversity, and whereas both in Latin America and in the EU we have opportunities ahead of us and we face common challenges such as the impact of digital technologies, changing cultural governance models and the need to support the innovation potential of the cultural and creative sectors;
- V. whereas the EU-LAC Foundation has as its mission to strengthen and promote the bi-regional strategic partnership, enhancing its visibility and fostering the active participation of civil societies from the countries concerned; whereas culture is one of the Foundation's areas of action;
- W. whereas any project must respect local, national, sub-regional and regional cultural practices;
- X. whereas in recent years the cultural sector has become an important accelerator of the tourism product, creating distinctive character in a busy global market;
1. Stipulates that the development of relations between the European Union and its Member States on the one part, and between Latin America and the Caribbean on the other part, is conditioned by integration, socioeconomic and international cultural ties, and it is essential that culture be promoted in order that the development of the regions be more harmonious and respectful of individual features and diversity while contributing to promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth;
  2. Recalls that bi-regional relations have a valuable accumulated heritage and are a reference point for the interests, values, identity and international projection of both Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union; adds that it is imperative to make efforts leading to the revitalisation of these relations;
  3. Recognises the multi-ethnic character of societies, and that the principles for action should be based on promotion of cultural diversity, pluralism and respect for human rights, gender equality, democracy, freedom of expression, the promotion of mutual respect and intercultural dialogue and a cross-sectoral approach to culture;
  4. Suggests an increase in cooperation, through culture as a common value, between the two regions, especially within the framework of UNESCO, given the compatibility between both regions' objectives with the organisation's mission;
  5. Stresses that European and Latin Countries' relations will contribute to strengthening cultural ties by creating synergies, pooling resources, facilitating cooperation and

providing more visibility to cultural exchanges and actions;

6. Considers that cooperation between the European Union and Latin America should be encouraged in areas such as education, digitalisation, digital illustration, women's empowerment, at all levels, human rights (the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community, the rights of more isolated communities, the rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples and communities, the rights of children, the rights of the elderly, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the rights of people more generally), the fight against climate change and appreciation and respect for diversity;
7. Stresses the need to extend cultural aspects in development cooperation actions between the two regions;
8. Points out that recognition of the importance of culture should be complemented by practical and concrete actions that are achievable through joint work;
9. Points out that the fields of culture and tourism are characterised by a mutually beneficial interdependence, which helps to strengthen the attractiveness and competitiveness of destinations within the two regions; in this context, points out that speeding up the development of tourism between the two regions can be an important means of improving knowledge of the cultural sector and increasing income, which can strengthen cultural heritage and stimulate cultural production and creativity;
10. Suggests including culture as a cross-sectoral axis in government policies in the two regions, and suggests identifying and promoting cultural policies that reflect human dignity, multiculturalism, the principles of justice and tolerance and the rejection of indiscriminate violence; proposes, in this context, the need to substantially increase economic and structural support for culture through public policies which guarantee the democratisation of access to culture, and thus rejects the commercialisation of culture and the arts;
11. Stresses that the empowerment and promotion of culture cannot be decoupled from empowering and dignifying the sector's professions and professionals, guaranteeing work with rights, job stability and decent and fair salaries;
12. Stresses that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed, in most countries, the fragilities of the world of artistic and cultural work; takes the view that mechanisms need to be set up in countries to ensure the rights and incomes of workers in the cultural sector in exceptional situations of total or partial cessation of their activity;
13. Considers it necessary to promote a study of the relevant legislation, to identify legal loopholes in both pieces of legislation and to exchange potential legal solutions, and to promote legislation on the protection of local and indigenous cultures, especially those threatened by the grabbing of land and of other natural resources, violent conflicts and the dynamics of globalisation;
14. Emphasises the link between cultural exchanges and economic benefits; stresses the importance of working together on cultural goods initiatives; recalls that culture is a central element in the new economy driven by creativity, innovation and access to knowledge and that cultural and creative industries represent around 3% of the global

GDP and 30 million jobs;

15. Proposes a strategy for two levels of cultural diplomacy, including bilateral and multilateral relations through existing frameworks of cooperation, at thematic and geographic level;
16. Emphasises that cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue are tools to tackle stereotypes and prejudices, prevent conflict, promote a global order based on peace, the rule of law and freedom of expression, and protect cultural heritage; in this regard, stresses the need for bi-regional cooperation to counter the current trafficking of cultural heritage products;
17. Recalls the importance to use tools such as The Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, which aims under its human development component to promote cultural diversity and respect for the equal dignity of all cultures;
18. Recalls the importance of audio-visual goods as the main tool to strengthen the intercultural activities and links among European Union and Latin American and the Caribbean countries; stresses, in this regard, the need to work together in order to support the effectiveness of independent media and avoid any risk of controls;
19. Understands the importance of comprehensive cultural instruments from the cultural and private sectors and the respect for their independence;
20. Considers it important to support local authorities in their efforts to ensure that cultural initiatives and strategies are developed in a way that promotes both regions' cultures individually and jointly;
21. Stresses the need to incorporate cultural aspects in development cooperation actions and in actions to create cultural policies that allow for experiences and best practices to be shared between the two regions and for creative and cultural industries and respect for linguistic identities to be strengthened; stresses the importance of making culture and cultural exchanges accessible and affordable;
22. Highlights the need to promote and support the exchange of cooperation, experience and technology, training programmes that encompass digital illustration, cultural research and transfer, as well as free movement in each of its territories of the cultural and creative sectors, authors, artists, workers, creators and cultural managers and cultural goods;
23. Highlights the importance of strengthening creative and cultural sectors by recognising the significant changes under way in the methods of creating, distributing, consuming and enjoying cultural goods and services; nevertheless stresses the challenge of promoting and protecting the diversity of cultural and linguistic expression in this regard;
24. Stresses that the development of cultural and creative sectors is not exclusively subject to the logic of economic or commercial profitability; on the contrary, it includes or gives precedence to cultural and social objectives such as creative freedom and the



promotion of diversity;

25. Points out that the cultural and creative sectors must be protected, and that the respectful remuneration of authors, artists, cultural workers and creators ensures that they continue to create culture and bring lasting benefits to society and the economy in both regions;
26. Proposes a strengthening of cooperation, whereby culture is strategically placed at the centre of the relations it fosters between the two regions, as well as the advancement of educational diplomacy through programmes such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus and Erasmus +, as well as high-level dialogues promoting interpersonal relations, cultural exchanges, mobility and co-production, and new technologies;
27. Calls for frequent dialogue to be established between decision-makers in both Latin American and Caribbean countries and the EU with organisations and representatives of the cultural and creative sectors in the respective countries and regions, ensuring a cross-cutting approach in cultural policy areas with a view to advocating promotion strategies for the benefit of the sector and bi-regional relations and to foster exchanges of good practices that help cement the cohesive role of culture in society;
28. Recommends the continued allocation of funding to the EU-LAC Foundation for drafting studies on fostering bi-regional relations through culture, as well the encouragement of bi-regional forums for reflection and cultural festivals representing both regions;
29. Appreciates the need to promote mutual understanding on cultural aspects related to the Sustainable Development Goals;
30. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, to the parliaments of the Member States of the European Union and of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Latin American Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the Andean Parliament and the Mercosur Parliament, the Secretariat of the Andean Community, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of Mercosur, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System, the CELAC Pro-Tempore Presidency and the countries making up the CELAC Troika, and the Secretaries-General of the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations and the United Nations.