



-PRESS RELEASE-

EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: legislative proposals

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The European Commission has recently adopted a legislative package framing cohesion policy for 2014-2020. This package is designed to boost growth and jobs across Europe by targeting EU investment on Europe's Growth and Jobs Agenda ("Europe 2020").

The European Commission's Green Paper on 'Unlocking the Potential of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI's)' published in April 2010, clearly expressed the EU's commitment to mainstream culture in its regional policy. As mentioned in the Green Paper, there is considerable untapped potential in the cultural and creative industries to boost economic growth, create jobs and contribute to regional development.

CCI's are one of Europe's most dynamic sectors, contributing around 2.6% to the EU GDP, with a high growth potential and providing quality jobs to around 5 million people across the EU.

The European Parliament's resolution on unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries adopted in May, 2011 also underlined the importance of the local and regional dimension of culture in boosting growth, stating that CCI's "are one of the main drivers for growth in the EU, creating new jobs, playing key roles in global value chains, spurring innovation, providing added value as a factor for social cohesion and serving as an efficient tool in the fight against the current recession".

In this context, the European Music Office would like to express its concern regarding the absence of clear reference to cultural and creative industries in the European Commissions' draft regulation for the next generation of Structural Funds which was published on the 6th of October, 2011. EMO acknowledges the comprehensive and cross-sectorial approach of the package, but can only deplore that the importance of culture and creativity in Europe's local and regional development is reduced to a minor reference to the European cultural heritage.

This outcome was unexpected since the important link between CCI's and regional development has been stressed by EU officials as well as member states representatives within the OMC working groups on various occasions over the past months. Notably, during a workshop on how to enhance the support of EU Structural Funds to the CCI's held in February by the European Platform on Cultural and Creative Industries, representatives of DG EAC and DG REGIO highlighted the paramount role of CCI's in the promotion of local and regional development as well as in achieving the goals of the 'Europe 2020' strategy for smart growth.

The EU Structural Funds represent an important potential incentive for investment in CCI's. Culture can contribute immensely to regional development and therefore needs an extended recognition and support.