

Berlin Declaration of the European Cultural Parliament, ECP 17 December 2012

The European Cultural Parliament, recognizing that

both Europe and the cultural domain are going through a period of transformation, shaped by an economic crisis, a governance crisis and an uncertainty about the values upon which it is based

a cultural and humanistic perspective acts as a glue keeping Europe together and plays an essential and vital role for the European project

states that, in order to unlock the value of culture for Europe and its societies

- culture may be seen both as a possibility and as a threat. Culture may help Europe to survive the present crisis through its extensive networks between creative people, should resist excessive nationalism and fight new destructive myths and divisions among European peoples and nations.
- the European project, as a union of nations characterized by peace, tolerance, freedom of expression, the integrity of the individual, diversity and curiosity is seen as an attractive model that both brings hope for those outside Europe and responsibility for the Europeans.
- culture should be seen as a strength for the cooperation between nations in Europe; as Europe is now united in its realisation that a material sustainable future is a critical necessity, it should adopt the same for its immaterial qualities and safeguard its values, central to its unity in diversity.
- in times of economic crisis money tends to become the dominant criterion against which all things are measured; but with declining budgets and increasing challenges one needs a creative dynamic to shape new solutions, a dynamic that culture, arts and the creative industries can provide.
- a new cultural paradigm for economy is taking shape; the European Union should actively research the possible contribution that such a paradigm might offer for a sustainable society and economy through its new creative Europe programme.
- the cultural domain is defined by its informal, innovative, artistic and creative activities that should be considered as an essential complement to its institutions.
- culture strengthens the dignity for European nations in distress
- today it is important for those active in the cultural sector to raise their voice and have it heard in the political debate
- The ECP took note of the promising plans of its Youth Network

recognizes that Europe has successfully promoted 27 years of European Cultural Capitals, creating one of its most valuable endeavours,

but the ECP proposes that the current local approach should be transformed to include the European Dimension in its vision for European Cultural Capitals after 2019