

Brussels, 18 June 2026

**To the personal attention of**

**Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission

**Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament

**Nikos Christodoulides**, President of the Republic of Cyprus, on behalf of the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Re: Joint Declaration “Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe”

*Dear Madam President of the European Commission,  
Dear Madam President of the European Parliament,  
Dear Mr President of the Council of the European Union,*

As the largest European civil society organisation committed to cultural heritage, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for the signature and publication today of your [Joint Declaration “Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe”](#). This historic document, based on the strategic guidelines of the Commission’s [Cultural Compass for Europe](#), reflects the principles and commitment that our organisation has expressed, thoroughly and relentlessly, throughout its sixty years of existence. By defending Europe’s culture and cultural heritage we have been defending the core values on which the European endeavour is based, namely peace, democracy, solidarity, human rights and the rule of law. Your visionary joint statement fully coincides with our own everlasting commitment, to place culture and cultural heritage where they belong: at the very heart of the European project.

We have always been convinced that the European project could not succeed without the support and sense of ownership of the European citizens. And no other area better reflects this reality than the common identity created by the generations of artists, creators, architects, musicians, writers, craftsmen, who have shaped a common legacy which is today shared by all European citizens and represents the common and vibrant showcase of our common values. This is what Europe has produced at its best; this is what symbolizes Europe all over the world; and this is what forms the basis of our societal and civilisational model, the European way of life, that we can and must be proud of and that we must ardently defend and promote.

It is no coincidence, consequently, that your Joint Declaration “Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe” is published at the very time when the European project is attacked like never before, both from the outside and the inside. We must therefore, more than ever, remain united and strong around our values and our guiding principles. This is precisely where culture and cultural heritage can play a leading role: by evidencing the strength and resilience of our model, and by linking Europeans together, helping them to understand the uniqueness of what they share. The mobilizing power of culture and cultural heritage is immense, particularly among the younger generation, as you state correctly.



**EUROPA  
NOSTRA**

**The European Voice of  
Civil Society committed  
to Cultural Heritage**

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Your Excellencies,

By publishing today your Joint Declaration, you have delivered the strongest plea in favour of culture and heritage since the beginning of the millennium, and you have fully integrated their role in the political and geopolitical challenges of our times. As leaders of three key EU Institutions, you have rightly marked their connection with your own political priorities ranging from climate change to the protection of health, well-being and social inclusion, and from international cultural relations to the governance of artificial intelligence. You have also rightly pointed out to the vital role of culture and heritage in the fight for democracy. Last but not least, we fully endorse the emphasis which you have made on the invaluable role which culture and cultural heritage play for boosting Europe's prosperity, competitiveness and local sustainable and inclusive growth

Of course, in implementing these strategic guiding principles across EU policies, programmes and funding mechanisms, you cannot only count on your own driving capacity. This is a task that must be shared by all organisations and people who believe in the European project and strive every day for its fulfilment. This is precisely where, through their mobilising capacity and their grassroots connections, civil society organisations play a major supporting role. We therefore wish to assure you that you can rely on us and on our wide-spread pan-European network of members and partners, not only to convey your messages and your commitment, but to mobilize our actors on the ground, at all operational levels – citizens, municipalities, regions, associations and foundations of all kinds -, to make the pledges of your Joint Declaration's motto "Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe" a reality.

Thanking you once again for your powerful, meaningful and encouraging political commitment, which encompasses all EU internal and external policies, and looking forward to working closely with you and your Institutions to build a better world where, through the key contribution of culture and cultural heritage, Europe can and will play a leading role,

Respectfully and cordially yours,



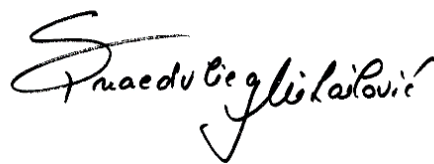
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