



Commission launches new Culture Compass for Europe

Brussels, 12 November 2025

Today, the European Commission presented its vision for a vibrant and integrated European cultural landscape with the launch of the Culture Compass for Europe. This forward-looking framework is designed to shape EU cultural policy, to ensure that culture plays a central role in fostering European identity, celebrating diversity, and promoting excellence.

In times of uncertainty and change, **culture strengthens our democracy, social cohesion, competitiveness and resilience**. This chimes with the latest [Eurobarometer on Culture](#) that shows that 87% of respondents believe that culture and cultural heritage should have a very important place in the Union, so that citizens feel more European.

Europe for Culture, Culture for Europe

In response, the Compass aims to leverage the benefits of culture, notably by promoting Europe's cultural assets, as well as addressing the major hurdles hindering the cultural and creative industries. These include restrictions on artistic expression, the precarious livelihoods of artists, unequal opportunities for cultural participation, and the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the sectors.

The Culture Compass will guide EU policies in **four key directions**, for an EU that: upholds and strengthens European values and cultural rights; empowers artist and cultural professionals, and supports people; draws on culture and cultural heritage to become more competitive, resilient and cohesive; and champions international cultural relations and partnerships.

The Compass' ambitions and political ownership will be underpinned by a proposal from the Commission to the European Parliament and Council for a draft **Joint Declaration between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission**. A new **report on the State of Culture in the EU** will track progress in the cultural and creative ecosystem, with particular emphasis on artistic freedom.

Furthermore, several new initiatives will be launched. They will include a new **EU Artists Charter** for fair working conditions for artists and cultural workers, a **European Prize for Performing Arts**, and a cultural stakeholders' dialogue. There are also plans for an **EU cultural data hub** and a **Youth Cultural Ambassadors Network** to improve young people's access to culture through a voluntary framework for national culture and cultural heritage passes. An **AI strategy for the cultural and creative sectors** and an update of the **EU strategy on international cultural relations** are also foreseen.

Next steps

The Commission invites the European Parliament and the Council to co-sign the proposed draft Joint Declaration to strengthen the EU's political commitment to achieve its vision for culture.

For More Information

[Culture Compass Communication](#)

[Culture Compass Joint Declaration](#)

[Factsheet](#)

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Quote(s):

"Culture goes to the heart of our European identity – what it is to be European. Today, we are putting culture back at the heart of Europe's political vision - where it belongs. European cultural and creative industries are vibrant and vital. And they bring life and jobs to our cities and our rural regions alike. Whether you are a dancer from Lisbon, a filmmaker from Paris, a singer from Bucharest or a designer from Stockholm – we must recognise your value and promote it, at home and abroad. Culture is not a side story, it is the story of Europe. It deserves our attention, it deserves our political engagement, and it deserves strong policies. This Compass is our roadmap to place culture at the core of our political, social and economic life."

Roxana Minzatu, Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness - 12/11/2025

"Europe is a global cultural powerhouse - a rich tapestry of languages, traditions, art, architecture, and music. With over 500 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Europe has more heritage sites than any other region in the world. Today, I am incredibly proud to present the Culture Compass for Europe. The Culture Compass points to what keeps Europe human, harnessing the power of art, culture and creativity, celebrating our differences. The Compass' strategic vision – 'Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe' - sets into motion 20 flagship actions driven by four key directions. It connects culture to Europe's future – where culture creates and inspires without borders, where culture works for its artists, and empowers its sectors, and connects us to the world."

Glenn Micallef, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport - 12/11/2025

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[Press conference by Roxana Minzatu, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, and Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner, on a Culture Compass for Europe](#)