

Edinburgh declaration of the European Cultural Parliament September 2013

The European Cultural Parliament, ECP, 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

modern societies are characterized by complexity and modern citizenship by an ability to deal with that

Europe is a space of common shared values in which a cultural and humanistic perspective may act as a glue keeping Europe together and play an essential and vital role for the European project

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

- Cultural identity should be distinguished from nationality and citizenship. Cultural identity cannot be lost, is inherently diverse and inspired and maintained through an on-going process of dialogue. To that dialogue arts and culture contribute the expression of existing cultural identity but also stimulate critical reflection.
- Stimulating cultural identity, through national days or otherwise, should strive for the citizens' ability to contribute to society and their civil rights
should fundamentally embrace and endorse diversity
should be open and inclusive to all
should embrace historical contexts as well as the future
- The European project can only be successful when it is also regarded as a cultural project. Honouring Europe's inherent creative diversity of cultures will inspire integration and stimulate vital societies
- Governments should safeguard the freedom of expression of its citizens and avoid suppressing the freedom in any way, whether regulatory, economically, politically, culturally or socially. We should be especially aware of market forces as a possible new form of censorship.
- The members of the ECP are concerned about restrictive developments in some of the European nations, such as Russia, Turkey and Hungary, restricting freedom of expression
- The new digital methods of cultural production and distribution are both a stimulus and a threat to the importance and meaning of arts and culture. A new proliferation of artistic products may decrease their possible value. There

is a responsibility for all to stimulate the quality of content in media

- Social media may both stimulate and jeopardize the freedom of speech.
- The awareness of the essential role, rights and responsibilities of citizenship is a core element in the development of cultural identity
- As cultural identity is inspired through dialogue, Europe and its nations should actively seek dialogue with cultures, artists and their representatives from different parts of the world

- As a cultural parliament inspires awareness and critical reflection on the role of culture the initiation of such cultural parliaments on other continents may strengthen culture world wide
- The ECP Youth Network recognizes the importance of art in public space, the need of citizen involvement in its commissioning and the need for further research on artistic freedom of expression in public space

recognizes that European societies may need new inspiration to vitalize their societies, and therefore

the ECP proposes that Governments should recognize the important contribution of culture in stimulating individual expression, participation, empowerment and civil rights and should develop a cultural policy describing their core values and the role of culture in realizing those.

The ECP members express their gratitude to Creative Scotland for generously hosting the 12th session and express satisfaction over the stimulating cooperation with representatives from IFACCA.

Contact:

Ambassador Karl-Erik Norrman
Hohenzollerndamm 81
D-14199 Berlin
Tel. +49-170-164-49-50
karl-erik.norrman@kulturparlament.com
www.kulturparlament.com