

**Prishtina declaration of the European Cultural Parliament
October 2014**

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

- in the face of increasing geopolitical tensions and the resulting uncertainty European arts and culture should stimulate and develop an open dialogue on the values of democratic and humane society
- the freedom of arts and culture, including the freedom of making critical statements through arts and literature, are essential human rights, deeply established in European democracy and cultural tradition
- a key factor in protecting that freedom is the European model of public responsibility for the arts. This model should be maintained and not be jeopardized in the current trade negotiations between the EU and the United States
- the soul of Europe is more than its economic and political realities and there is an increasing need for a truly cultural dimension for politics in Europe
- artists and cultural personalities have a central role in defending the European values of democracy, tolerance and humanity that are currently challenged by neo-nationalism, populism and propaganda
- the building of a nation is a process that is based on defining the strength of its contribution to the world and no longer on competitive identity
- Europe has a strong and complex history, but its people should be able to create viable futures inspired by history rather than becoming its prisoner
- the quality and success of business and organizations may be increased through an active engagement of creativity, aesthetic values and competencies
- the arts and the cultural sector can and should actively strive for equality, including gender equality, at policy, managerial and operational levels

Convening in Kosovo, the European Cultural Parliament applauds the central role culture plays in the building of their young nation and states that

- Kosovo should quickly be accepted as partner of the EU cultural programme
- In the spirit of the on-going process of European integration the citizens of Kosovo should immediately be granted visa-free travel in the European space
- The ECP Youth network sees in Kosovo that young artists and cultural professionals are an essential and indispensable force for cultural vitality. They should be empowered and have access to culture management and art spaces and should be supported by cultural policy.