

Graz Declaration 21 April 2024

Members of the European Cultural Parliament, ECP, met in full Session in Graz on 19 – 21 April.

They

- Expressed their gratitude to the hosts of Graz and the support of Styria, Federal Ministry of Culture and private Sponsors,
- Welcomed this opportunity for establishing contacts between cultural personalities in Styria/Graz and the rest of Europe,
- Welcomed the opportunity to discuss openly the crisis for common European values and the future for European unity and European culture,
- Confirmed the decisive role of Culture and Arts in defending European values, based on democracy, human rights, and the Rule of Law,
- Strongly condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and encouraged members to engage with their colleagues in Ukraine,
- Expressed belief and the renewed hope, of the positive role of art and culture, in making a strong contribution to the values and civic life of all European societies, including Ukraine, despite the negative impact of the war,
- Called for an increased awareness of the Russian invasion as a war on culture, where art and artists are being instrumentalised in an attack intending to eradicate Ukrainian culture, art and national identity. This also has an impact on exiled artists within and outside this conflict area,
- Expressed the hope that people of arts and culture can contribute to healing wounds and losses, across borders, during and after the war,
- Emphasised the importance of learning from history and discussed historic examples of models of reconciliation after long periods of war in Europe,

- Discussed the increasing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in cultural life and recognised the possibilities that AI may offer, but...
- expressed concern about the consequences of the abuse of AI in literature, music, film and other forms of arts, not least in relation to copyright and work opportunities,
- Expressed concerns about the predominance of digitalisation in education and emphasised the necessity to cultivate a sense of awareness and critical thinking in schools,
- Expressed concerns regarding “cancel culture” and the marginalisation of humanities within education. These have negative consequences for society at large,
- Welcomed invitations from Kutaisi/Georgia and Tirana/Albania, regarding future co-operation with the ECP and to host a session in 2025,
- Welcomed new projects, initiated by ECP Members, on cooperation with cultural personalities and institutions in Africa, Asia and United States,

