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Culture and democracy

Reply to Recommendation¹: Recommendation 2093 (2016)
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers has examined Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2093 (2016) on “Culture and democracy” and brought it to the attention of the governments of member States. It also communicated it to the relevant committees for information and comments.²

2. The Committee of Ministers regards a culture of democracy as a powerful tool for preventing violent extremism and radicalisation, promoting democratic citizenship and developing well-being and social cohesion. It welcomes the Parliamentary Assembly’s support for the intergovernmental work aimed at shaping new cultural and intercultural processes in the member States. It thanks the Assembly for the proposals made in the recommendation, in particular concerning enhanced co-operation between different sectors of the Council of Europe in the area of cultural policies and diversity management and supporting projects aimed at integrating cultural activities in other policy sectors. The Committee of Ministers will bear these proposals in mind when it considers the Programme and Budget for future biennia.

3. The Assembly recommends that member States better integrate cultural activities into the education system and improve access to culture for marginalised and underprivileged children and young people. In this connection, the Committee of Ministers underlines the part which could be played here by the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture. The model describes the essential competences for learners wishing to participate effectively in a culture of democracy and live peacefully together with others in culturally diverse democratic societies. The Committee of Ministers also refers to the guidelines it issued to the member States in Recommendations [CM/Rec\(2016\)2](#) on the Internet of citizens, [CM/Rec\(2015\)3](#) on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights and [CM/Rec\(2016\)7](#) on young people’s access to rights, which address some issues raised by the Assembly.

4. With regard to the Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy (IFCD) mentioned in paragraph 3.3 of the recommendation, the Committee of Ministers would inform the Assembly that the CDCPP finalised and approved the indicator framework in June 2016 and that a launch event is scheduled in October 2016 in Brussels in co-operation with the European Union. This joint activity is a practical and topical example of the co-operation that takes place between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the area of promoting European cultural values. The Committee of Ministers welcomes this co-operation and encourages the relevant bodies to continue developing it.

5. Lastly, the Committee of Ministers would inform the Assembly that the CDCPP has just finalised a draft European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century, drawn up in the light of the conclusions of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Heritage (Namur Declaration, April 2015). The strategy is intended to contribute to good governance and the development on a participatory basis of cultural heritage management policies. It also aims to help construct peaceful societies, conscious of their diversity and the richness this represents. The Committee of Ministers will give this draft strategy close attention.

1. Adopted at the 1271st meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (16 November 2016).

2. Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE); Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP); Joint Council on Youth (CMJ).

