



#BringCultureBack in the European Commission

On 10 September, European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen presented her new Commission, with a structure of 8 Vice Presidents who stand for the new work priorities of the Commission. At the heart of the work of the European Commission will be climate change, technology and demography which are transforming our societies and way of life. [YOUROPE](http://www.yourope.org) (the European festival association) welcomes these set priorities and is convinced that culture, music and festivals have a big role to play in that.

We therefore ask to re-introduce the term CULTURE in the title of the designated Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, that is currently missing in her title “Innovation and Youth”, which significantly underrepresents the importance of culture for our European identity.

Culture is a distinct and vast component of European unity, which is essential for building a shared prosperous future for all European citizens. The tremendous role of culture in European integration has been consistently recognised by European institutions in the past few years, creating an unprecedented opportunity to seize its potential for building a strong and united European community. Now, with culture missing from the official title of the designated commissioner, we have serious doubts as to whether it will remain at the appropriate level of recognition. Undoubtedly, all cultural and creative sectors are powerful drivers of innovation; moreover, culture is closely linked with youth policies. However, it remains an autonomous domain of enormous dimensions bringing its own contribution to the construction of our societies. We're proud and happy to be a part of it.

Culture is included in the [Treaty of Lisbon](#) (Art.167) and the [“New European Agenda for Culture”](#) (pdf attached) adopted in May 2018 sets out the priorities for the coming years by building a stronger Europe through new initiatives for education, culture and youth. We therefore call upon the President of the European Commission to reinforce the role of culture for the development of the European Union.

With the College, President-elect von der Leyen suggests an open and inclusive way of working – such a cooperative way is ideal to mainstream culture in all policy areas and [YOUROPE](http://www.yourope.org) calls on the European Commission to give room to culture in all its policy areas.

We also ask a change in the title of the Vice President Margaritis Schinas for “Protecting the European Way of Life” so as to render the diversity of way of lives in Europe and to avoid connecting Europe with ideas of protectionism and rejection of others.

[YOUROPE](http://www.yourope.org) highly welcomes the words of the mission letter to Commissioner Gabriel that state “culture is about freedom of expression, identity and diversity”. With this in mind, we look forward to exchanging with the designated Commissioner on the role of culture, its policies and the EU funding programmes for culture.

[YOUROPE](http://www.yourope.org) supports the initiative **#BringCultureBack** together with our colleagues at Culture Action Europe, EMC (European Music Council), Live DMA et al.

[Official Press release on the new European Commission](#)

[Von Der Leyen’s mission letter to Mariya Gabriel \(Innovation & Youth\)](#)

[Culture Action Europe initiative to bring "culture back into the title of the designated commissioner](#)