

Presentation to ECCD, Sept 20 2012 – “Culture in EU Development Policy”

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I wish to initiate discussion on whether we are adequately monitoring the implementation of the Convention, Article 16 in particular, and its obligation on all signatories to be proactive in support co-operation with the developing countries

In particular, the actions of DG DevCo – *Agenda for Change*. Absence of any mention of culture is indicative of a conceptual gap in recognising the role of culture/creative industries/ diversity of cultural expression in strategy for development. It also negates commitments made in Lisbon Treaty and other normative frameworks for culture e.g European Agenda for Culture 2007, which are informed by the objectives of the Convention

Agenda for Change

13th October 2011 EU presents Agenda for Change, new policy building on and to replace 2005 European Consensus on Development

Accepted by council of ministers, April 2012, and discussions to conclude Sept 2012

EU development funds are locked into a 6 year budget, regardless of the economic crisis

EU Commission is responsible 11 billion euros of ODA monies (official development assistance) and is the second largest source of ODA monies. However, 80% is the responsibility of individual member states. In future, the EU wants more coordination to achieve scale benefits

No mention of culture in Agenda for Change. April 2012 letter from arts organisations throughout Europe to President Barroso to complain. Response - Barroso has invited organisations and influential individuals to discuss with him. Eg FreeWord, Rose Fenton

I last checked with Dept DevCo at beginning of July and no change with regard to inclusion of “culture”

The Agenda has 2 Priority areas and 11 priority activities (culture not mentioned)

- Eradication of poverty still priority, and sustainable development, with emphasis on energy in context of climate change
- A higher profile for good governance and human rights, linked to greater conditionality – *Priority area*
- A higher profile for *growth*, (includes social – health, education and social protection) with strong focus on leveraging private sector money (EU to combine grant finance with loans and guarantees to assist) – *Priority area*
- The introduction of the concept of differentiated development partnerships, with new allocations for aid
- An attempt to boost EU joint work - cost of fragmentation and proliferation and suggestion of joint programming, single EU contracts for budget support and common EU frameworks for measuring and communicating results
- The eradication of poverty is still a priority in the context of Millenium Development Goals, and sustainable development (emphasis on energy and

context of climate change) but there is no consensus on whether the focus for the new programme should be on poverty or on more strategic goals.

Additional points:

2 regions identified as priorities for assistance: EU neighbourhood and sub-Saharan Africa. 2005 Consensus was less specific with focus on low and middle-income countries. In general, EU has integrated a cultural dimension into its initiatives, particularly in favour of ACP countries, and to a lesser extent of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

It identifies the transition from humanitarian aid and crisis response to long-term development cooperation, security and migration being key areas

Focus on importance of coordination of external and internal policies e.g. contradiction where EU subsidies to export produce might then flood local market.

Review of current favouring of support for poor countries rather than emerging economies e.g. China, Brazil – aim to assess how to apply this as many of the poorest still live in so-called middle income economies/emerging economies. Vested interests of the different European states is likely to lead to objections to cuts, eg Spain in relation to loss of support for its programmes in Latin America

Preferences of member states also diverge e.g. with regard to role of United Nations: UK and Netherlands want to expand role whilst others, such as Spain and Italy, prefer to renationalise development aid.

Differences will be increasingly difficult with creation of European External Action Service. This serves under Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by Catherine Ashton and might change the focus on eradication of poverty.

Proposal for action by ECCD

- Letter to DevCo Commissioner Andres Piebalgs / cc Barroso (Urgent/September)
 - Refer to April 19 letter (artists in protest)
 - Refer to intervention by UNESCO Ambassador to Brussels
 - No mention of culture
 - Extend interpretation of poverty beyond economic to include cultural rights, and access to expression and diversity of expression
 - Positive action on cooperation and exchange with developing countries should be included in assessment of all internal and external EU policy, so that it does not obstruct the aims of convention

- Inclusion of this agenda in the final statement/resolution of IFCCD Congress