



All CCS and Cross-sectoral Festivals Advocacy Initiatives Belgium

European Capital of Culture: First Culture Next Policy Summit is ON!

3 November: Culture Next gathers in the European Parliament in Brussels more than 80 representatives from the European institutions and major cultural networks to discuss Culture as a UN Sustainable Development Goal, cities' recommendations on the ECOC framework and culture in the new EU agenda.

[Culture Next](#), the network of 46 current and former candidate cities for the title of ECOC, organizes today at the European Parliament in Brussels the [Culture Next Policy Summit 2025](#).

EU policymakers, ECOC cities' representatives and CCS advocacy organisations leaders are about to discuss on an agenda including:

- Culture as a Sustainable Development Goal in the post 2030 UN Agenda.
- Recommendations from European Capital of Culture candidate cities on strengthening the ECoC framework.
- Cultural priorities of the new European Union agenda.

The event will be held Monday 3 November from 5 to 7 p.m., at the European Parliament (Room 6Q1), formally hosted by [MEP Daniel Buda](#), Member of the European Parliament (EPP, Romania).

Culture Next

Policy Summit

Brussels 03 November 2025

On 4 November, the Cultural Networks Meeting is about to be held during 15:00–17:00 at Migration Museum, Molenbeek - Brussels. The Meeting will be followed by a cocktail reception hosted by Oulu 2026 and Trenčín 2026, marking the launch of their programmes as the European Capitals of Culture 2026.

As this is the first ever organization of the Summit, Culture Next aims at establishing the event as an annual high-level gathering, to strengthen collaboration and bottom-up approaches involving local agents and EU decision makers in order to promote [culture as a driver of democracy, peacebuilding, social justice, and sustainable development](#).

Find more [here](#)

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