



EU response News

The Cáceres declaration established culture as an essential public good

The Ministers of Culture of the European Union adopt the Cáceres declaration at the informal meeting held in Cáceres.

On September 25 and 26 the Ministers of Culture of the European Union participated in an informal meeting held in Cáceres, Spain to discuss issues and matters concerning culture.

Chaired by Spain's acting Minister for Culture and Sport, Miquel Iceta, all the ministers for culture were present and adopted this declaration in support of culture to be placed at the highest policy level, and hereafter considered to be an essential public good.

The meeting committed to working for culture to be recognised in and of itself as a new sustainable development goal, keeping in mind the importance culture and creativity holds in our lives in terms of educated societies, well being and a balanced mental health.

Culture is not yet one of the pillars of EU policies, but there is a great consensus among the member countries that we must move towards it being so.

- Miquel Iceta acting Minister of Culture and Sports

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic it became clear that art and culture was a significant part of a difficult period of time for the entire world.

The meeting emphasized on that specific period of time saying that "Culture opens doors, breaks down barriers, heals wounds and offers paths to better lives and societies. Culture and life are never separate, but parts of a whole."

The Cáceres declaration concluded that culture, freedom of creators, their rights, their working conditions, participation and

access, must always be among the objectives of any public authority, because culture defines us and is the path to freer, happier and more tolerant, sustainable and generous societies.

The EU-27 heads of culture ended with a list of all the meanings and matters that culture represents and stands for and the reasons the meeting will be prioritising the sector the following year.

"Culture is tolerance, respect and human rights.

Culture is freedom of thought and creation.

Culture is pluralism, diversity and wealth.

Culture is peace.

Culture is identity.

Culture is equality.

Culture is universal access and inclusion.

Culture is the participation of citizens in cultural life.

Culture is health and physical and mental well-being.

Culture is sustainability and the pathway to a future world for generations to come.

Culture is a key element in the fight against climate change.

Culture is an essential element of economic development.

Culture is dignified lives for cultural workers.

Culture is heritage, history and memory, the wellsprings of the future.

Culture is, in short, a right of citizens that public authorities and all individuals have an obligation to safeguard. That is why we are making this commitment today, so that culture will henceforth be considered an essential public good, a global public good, at the highest policy level."

Read the full Cáceres Declaration [here](#)

