

JOINT STATEMENT
of
**the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic,
the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland,
the Ministry of National Resources of the Republic of Hungary
and
the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic**

issued on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting held in Mikulov on 7 October 2011.

The Ministers responsible for Culture of the Visegrad group (hereinafter referred to as „the Parties“),

Aware of the importance of co-operation between the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic based on close interests and similar historical experience as well as their co-operation at the European level,

Agreeing on the significance of maintaining cultural diversity in Europe while fostering inter-cultural dialogue, as well as the protection and use of cultural heritage,

Recognizing the significance of the effort in the field of culture in the EU cohesion policy and all financial instruments for 2014-2020 Programming Period,

Considering the challenges brought about by the current economic situation in the EU and with respect to the social and economic potential in the area of culture,

Wishing to support the exchange of information and experience and co-operate in the promotion of culture in the future cohesion policy,

Represent the following:

ARTICLE I (Objective)

The objective of this Joint Statement is to express the agreement of all Parties on the importance of improving the inclusion of culture in the future EU cohesion policy as well as in the planning of all relevant financial instruments and unanimously stress that culture contributes to the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Parties agree on the social and economic importance of culture in the development of the European Union.

ARTICLE II (Areas of Co-operation)

The Parties express their support for the exchange of experience and information particularly in the following areas:

- a) Culture and its contribution to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its Flagship Initiatives;

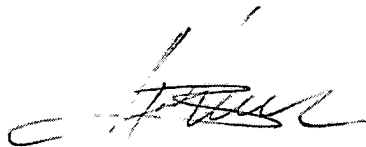
- b) Efficient forms of support of culture from the EU Structural Funds, namely European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund, in the 2014-2020 Programming Period;
- c) The role of culture in increasing the attractiveness of a region and support of investments;
- d) Culture and tourism;
- e) The role of culture in the development of competences;
- f) Culture and Life-long Learning;
- g) Cultural and Creative Industries;
- h) Culture and innovation.

ARTICLE III (Forms of Co-operation)

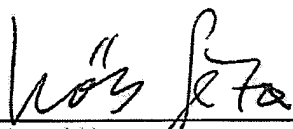
Co-operation between the Parties may have the following forms:

- a) Acting in favour of EU support for culture in the Council of the European Union
- b) Exchange of information, materials and documents in relevant areas;
- c) Organisation of seminars and workshops;
- d) Reciprocal visits of senior officials;
- e) Participation in conferences and other forms of co-operation as agreed by the Parties.

Done in Mikulov, on 7th October 2011 in English language.



Ministry of Culture
of the Czech Republic



Ministry of National Resources
of the Republic of Hungary



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
of the Republic of Poland



Ministry of Culture
of the Slovak Republic