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ENV 9
CLIMA 4
ENER 6
SUSTDEV 2
RECH 7
FIN 15

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Stocktaking exercise on the energy crisis and the cultural and creative sectors for sharing best practices
– Presidency discussion Paper

With a view to the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) meeting on 20 January 2023 (agenda item 7), delegations will find attached a discussion paper prepared by the Presidency in consultation with Member States and the Commission.

The stocktaking exercise on the energy crisis is part of the action “Stimulate the green transition of the cultural and creative sectors, with a specific focus on the energy crisis” in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026.

As indicated in the discussion paper, delegations’ inputs should be sent to the Presidency (david.ek@gov.se , tobias.adolfsson@gov.se) and the GSC (andres.tobias@consilium.europa.eu , and eycs@consilium.europa.eu) by **Tuesday 28 February 2023**.

STOCKTAKING EXERCISE ON THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTORS FOR SHARING BEST PRACTICES

PRESIDENCY DISCUSSION PAPER

1. INTRODUCTION

The stocktaking exercise on the energy crisis is part of the action *Stimulate the green transition of the cultural and creative sectors, with a specific focus on the energy crisis* in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026¹, the action having the following rationale:

The CCS² must not be left behind in the green transition. They must reinforce their contribution to a sustainable future and play an active role in the green transition, climate action and Europe's recovery, with a specific focus on the current energy crisis, while considering the Union's geographical diversity and characteristics. A variety of practices and initiatives have already been tried out. The work under this action should reflect the outcomes of the OMC groups³ on the cultural dimension of sustainable development and on strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change. Exchanging experience with regard to the RRF⁴ for this topic should also be taken into consideration.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/60399/st15381-en22.pdf>

² Cultural and creative sectors.

³ Open Method of Coordination – for more information, visit: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/open-method-of-coordination.html>

⁴ Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The target outputs of the whole action are exchanging experiences and identifying transferable best practices in the CCS (especially in performing arts, music, museums, film production), including on CO2 calculators; supporting CCS efforts to adapt to the green transition.

This stocktaking exercise will be an opportunity to focus more on the energy crisis part of the action, while placing it in the larger context of the green transition of the CCS, and providing an opportunity to discuss how the next part of the action (foreseen in the Work Plan as OMC or Workshops as of 2024) could be designed.

2. BACKGROUND

CONTEXT

Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these challenges, the European Green Deal will transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring: no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth decoupled from resource use and no person and no place left behind⁵.

Russia's unjustified military aggression against Ukraine and its weaponisation of gas supplies have provoked an unprecedented energy crisis for the EU. They have caused a sharp rise in energy prices and brought hardship for Europeans⁶.

⁵ European Commission – for more information about *A European Green Deal - Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent* and initiatives and legislation within this framework, several of which are relevant to the CCS, visit: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

⁶ European Commission – for more general information by the Commission on the energy crisis, please visit the website *EU action to address the energy crisis* https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/eu-action-address-energy-crisis_en

THE EFFECTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS ON THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTORS

According to a PEARLE* Live Performance Europe survey, 93 % of responding members (performing arts) said they expected an increase on their energy bill, but the percentage varies substantially, from as low as 3 % up to 600 % for the coming months and year (answers from September 2022)⁷.

The Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) made a statement in September 2022 indicating that some museums in Europe foresee a cost increase of up to 400 % in energy bills this winter⁸.

⁷ PEARLE* Live Performance Europe, *Energy crisis: an urgent call to the EU and Member States to secure live performance events and support cultural organisations* https://www.google.se/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiN15609of8AhVwR_EDHd53DtEQFnoECBEQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pearle.eu%2Fpositionpaper%2Fenergy-crisis-an-urgent-call-to-the-eu-and-member-states-to-secure-live-performance-events-and-support-cultural-organisations&usg=AOvVaw3PcwSoQiNDZpdO-_Qwq4pO

⁸ NEMO – The Network of European Museum Organisations, *Statement on the Impact of the Energy Crisis on Museums in Europe* https://www.nemo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMO_Statements/NEMO_Statement_Energy_Crisis_in_Europe_16092022.pdf

The OMC report *Stormy Times – Nature and humans: Cultural courage for change*⁹ highlights the carbon footprint of the cultural sector, stating that the entertainment and media sector (TV, gaming, streaming, entertainment and newspapers) currently accounts for 3 % of global electricity consumption. According to the report, online video is one of the most energy-intensive digital products on the internet and increased video consumption results in massive amounts of data being stored.

According to the PEARLE* survey, 8 out of 10 respondents answered that they are lowering the temperature in their buildings, and 50 % indicated that they have changed their planning to shorten the period of heating over the day, while more than 40 % have closed parts of buildings that are not used or have concentrated activities into fewer rooms (if possible).

⁹ OMC report *Stormy Times – Nature and humans: Cultural courage for change*
<https://op.europa.eu/sv/publication-detail/-/publication/0380f31c-37c9-11ed-9c68-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ENERGY PERFORMANCE

According to the NEMO statement, cultural heritage protection makes the introduction of energy efficiency measures more difficult for many museums since their buildings are under special protection. NEMO is concerned about possible new closures and dramatic reductions of services and opening hours of museums due to increased energy costs. According to NEMO, the closure and/or reduction of services of museums has a minimal impact in terms of energy savings but has a significant impact on Europe's cultural and social fabric.

The OMC report *Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change*¹⁰ addresses the issue of the energy performance of cultural heritage. It states that there is a lack of methods that realistically assess the energy efficiency potential in large stocks of historic buildings to contribute to regional planning and national and EU strategies. Current software assessment systems which concentrate on the notional energy performance of the building fabric fail to include an assessment of the actual energy used, the contribution of the embodied, or grey, energy in an existing building and the whole-life-cycle assessment of the building's performance.

The report adds that energy efficiency improvements such as stopping air leakage and improving heating and cooling efficiency, and other system approaches, can often be used in historic buildings. However, it states that based on the draft proposals of the Energy performance of buildings directive (EPBD)¹¹, it seems important to insist on the possibility to keep exceptions for buildings with heritage value and this also for properties owned by public authorities, whatever the percentage targeted by the legislation.

¹⁰ OMC report *Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change*
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4bfcf605-2741-11ed-8fa0-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

¹¹ Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (recast) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/;ELX_SESSIONID=FZMjThLLzfxmmMCQGp2Y1s2d3Tjwtd8QS3pqdkhXZbwqGwlgY9KN!2064651424?uri=CELEX:32010L0031

EXAMPLES OF EU AND MEMBER STATES' MEASURES

The source used for this summary, regarding the Member States' measures, is a compilation of the answers from eight Member States responding to the Austrian delegation's information request, sent out on 13 October 2022, and therefore describes the situation in autumn 2022.

The Energy efficiency directive sets rules and obligations for achieving the EU's 2020 and 2030 energy efficiency targets¹². In addition, the Commission presented a communication in May entitled EU 'Save Energy'¹³. For renewable energy, EU legislation and additional measures, such as support mechanisms, are in place¹⁴.

DIRECT SUPPORT/FUNDING

One way for Member States to support the CCS during the energy crisis is to include them in general support schemes for public institutions and private actors in all sectors; there are cases of extra encouragement and support where cultural institutions can apply to more general funds. The funding could take the form of pure compensation, or be directed to support rapid energy-saving work on public buildings, such as installing intelligent thermostats, changing boilers, adding insulation, switching to LED lighting, etc., as well as more long-term investments.

¹² Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (revised in 2021) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32012L0027>

¹³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU 'Save Energy' <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A240%3AFIN&qid=1653033053936>

¹⁴ For more information, visit: https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-directive-targets-and-rules_en

Another possibility that has been used is to offer targeted support to the CCS (public institutions and/or other cultural actors) in the face of rising energy prices and costs, also sometimes conditioned here as regards short- or long-term investments. The Recovery and Resilience Plans can play a part in this.

Another form of support that has been used is interest-free energy loans that have been granted for installing photovoltaic installations and battery storage.

PUBLIC SECTOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS, INCLUDING IN THE CULTURAL SECTOR

Some Member States have general guidelines for energy efficiency in the public sector, with goals set for the reduction of electricity consumption. One of the measures used here is to lower the indoor temperature in public buildings, with possible adaptations to the nature of cultural institutions' activities, such as collection care or conditions for the performing arts. Other measures relate to light saving (indoor and outdoor decorative lighting), mandatory working from home during specific periods, energy-efficient installations and building energy audits.

CONSULTATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

There are cases of government consultations with the cultural sector in order to better understand the possible effects of demands on energy saving (for example the compatibility with COVID-19 air quality standards) and there are also cases of compilations by governments of good practices that the CCS can make use of. In addition, the drawing up of action plans for energy saving among cultural institutions and the use of energy consultants have been encouraged.

The dialogue with the sector could also be viewed in the wider context of the green transition. With the Commission initiative New European Bauhaus, a new framework for interdisciplinary creation connects the European Green Deal to our living spaces and experiences, with the keywords ‘beautiful’, ‘sustainable’ and ‘together’, including principles, prizes and project funding that could encourage and highlight good practices, not least in the CCS¹⁵.

3. DISCUSSION

The Presidency would like to invite the Member States to share their best practices to support the CCS in coping with the energy crisis and in finding new solutions, including in the larger context of the green transformation. Based on the input received through

1. the answers provided to the information request sent out from the Austrian delegation on 13 October 2022 (compiled by the Austrian delegation and disseminated to the other delegations on 5 December),
2. the exchanges during the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) meeting on 20 January, and
3. the additional input on national initiatives, as well as input for future initiatives at national and European level (including thoughts on how the next part of the action, foreseen in the Work Plan as OMC or Workshops as of 2024, could be designed), which Member States can send in writing to the Presidency at any time between now and 28 February,

¹⁵ For more information about New European Bauhaus, visit: https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en

the Presidency will compile a synthesis of the stocktaking to be disseminated to the Member States.

For the possible written input and the discussion during the CAC on 20 January, we would ask the delegations to focus on the following questions:

- Are there any (additional) best practices to support the CCS in coping with the energy crisis and in finding new solutions that your delegation would like to share?
- What measures at national and European level (including the future working methods of the action *Stimulate the green transition of the CCS, with a specific focus on the energy crisis*) could be taken in the future in order to support the CCS in coping with the energy crisis and in finding new solutions, in the context of the green transition?

Written input by 28 February at the latest to david.ek@gov.se, tobias.adolfsson@gov.se, andres.tobias@consilium.europa.eu, and eycs@consilium.europa.eu.
