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Dear Mr du Moulin,

Thank you for your letters of 18 June 2020 addressed to President von der Leyen and myself, on behalf of 94 cultural organisations, regarding “Investing in Europe’s next generation by investing in culture”. I am also replying on behalf of the President.

I agree with you that the pandemic has hit the cultural and creative sectors particularly hard and I want to reassure you that the Commission is very much aware of the difficult situation these sectors are facing. The recent months have shown how relevant the areas of culture and creativity are for citizens and society as a whole and how much a vibrant cultural scene is necessary for Europe’s continuous growth as a Union of values. Their swift recovery will be an important factor not only for Europe’s economy but also for its well-being.

We therefore share your concerns about the short- and long-term impact of this crisis and are monitoring the situation closely. Commissioners Gabriel and Breton have established specific platforms for dialogue with your organisations, dedicated task forces and other representative networks to explore how the European Union can best support these sectors. We are also in close contact with the Member States.

The Commission has put forward a major recovery plan proposal, composed of a new recovery instrument, Next Generation EU, and a revamped Multiannual Financial Framework. Several instruments in this package could specifically support the European cultural and creative sectors, in various ways, such as the Creative Europe programme, the Digital Europe programme, InvestEU, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the future cohesion policy funds and REACT-EU.

Mr Marc du Moulin
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Creative Europe is the most visible instrument in support of the cultural and creative sectors. With an overall envelope of EUR 1.6 billion in 2018 prices, the agreement reached at the European Council of 21 July 2020 increases the budget of the programme by 17% compared to the 2014-20 level at EU-27 in fixed 2018 prices.

Furthermore, as mentioned above, many other European Union spending programmes and funds can also support culture and creativity.

For instance, InvestEU can provide support to your sectors under several of its windows, including investments in cultural heritage infrastructure, social investment and skills support for cultural and creative activities with a social goal, as well as support to small and medium-sized enterprises operating in these sectors.

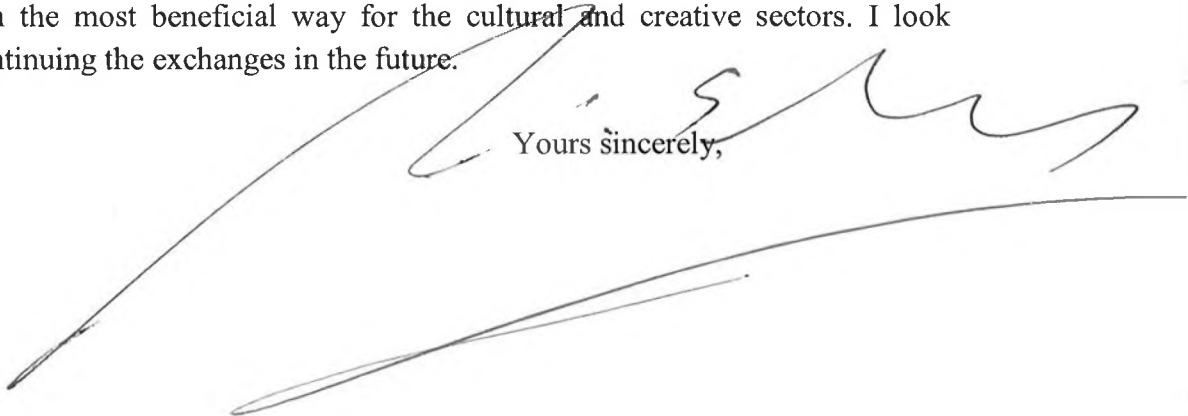
Your sectors could also avail of the Digital Europe Programme, for example via deployment and best use of digital capacities and interoperability. This will help to face the digital transition challenge and seize its related opportunities.

Furthermore, REACT EU and the future cohesion policy funds could finance activities in the cultural and creative sectors, in line with the legal acts establishing those initiatives and their intervention logic.

Funding possibilities will also be available under the new Horizon Europe programme not least through the proposed new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in the field of Cultural and Creative Industries.

Finally, the cultural and creative sectors could also be supported by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which will provide grants and loans to the Member States, on the basis of their national recovery and resilience plans, which will set out a reform and investment agenda for the years 2021-2023 and underpin the transition to a green and digital economy.

My colleagues and I remain at your disposal to discuss how to shape these support instruments in the most beneficial way for the cultural and creative sectors. I look forward to continuing the exchanges in the future.


Yours sincerely,