



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
Chairperson
Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister
Room 435
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Our Ref: C21/16

25th January 2016

Dear Mike,

Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee
European Commission Work Programme and other EU priority workstreams

At its meeting on 21st January 2016, the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure received a RaISe briefing on CAL-related aspects of the 2016 EU Commission Work Programme. Members considered these and the EU-related work that the Committee undertook in 2015.

As you are aware, there were no CAL-related issues coming out of the EU CWP in either 2013 or 2014, and limited issues in 2015 and 2016. However, the Committee undertook an audit of the EU-related activities of DCAL and its ALBs in 2015, which led to the Department working to ensure that it stepped up its efforts to encourage the DCAL family to engage more actively, and beneficially, with the EU.

The 2016 EU CWP has only two CAL-related priorities in its legislation annex, which are highlighted in the attached pro forma. However, the Committee has also highlighted a number of non-CWP priorities on the attached pro forma which it will recommend are pursued by successor Committees in its Legacy Report.

Yours sincerely,

Nelson McCausland

Mr Nelson McCausland MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

Draft Priorities
EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2016 – COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Committee: **Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**

Background

The Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure agreed the response below based on the two CAL-related issues identified in the fifth annex (legislation) of the 2016 European Commission Work Programme.

Agreed Priorities for 2016 from the European Commission Work Programme

Directive 2013/53/EU – Recreational Watercraft

This Directive comes into force in 2016 and is of interest to the Waterways sector over which DCAL has oversight, although it falls more appropriately within the remit of the Department of the Environment. The Directive lays down requirements for the design and manufacture of watercraft, including aspects such as identification marks, construction, stability, fuel system installations and owner's documentation. While vehicle licensing and inspections falls within the remit of DoE, the transposition of this Directive into law here may create higher vessel costs as the Directive restricts the supply of recreational vessels in the short to medium term. The Directive is effective from 18th January 2016. This will be highlighted to the Committee for Infrastructure in the Committee's Legacy Report.

Directive 2014/26/EU – Rights Revenues Collection

Although copyright legislation is not a devolved matter, the Committee has an interest in how this Directive is transposed into UK legislation as it will have an impact on the growing music industry in Northern Ireland and those organisations and individuals who sell musical output on a cross-border, and/or EU-wide, basis. This Directive forms part of the wider Digital Agenda for Europe, which seeks to improve the licensing of rights and access to digital content. The Directive sets out the standards that collective management organisations must meet in relation to the rightholders whom they represent. For example, the Directive includes detailed requirements for the way in which rights revenues are collected and paid, how those funds are handled, and how deductions are made. Companies and practitioners in Northern Ireland are increasingly selling their outputs beyond the province; therefore, reforms which set out how copyright-related funds are to be collected and distributed are significant. DCAL leads on the Creative Industries in Northern Ireland and is responsible for the Strategic Action Plan on the Creative Industries and the Creative Industries Innovation Fund. The UK must adopt the Directive by 10th April 2016. This will be highlighted to the Committee for Communities in the Committee's Legacy Report.

Other non-CWP EU activity planned for 2016 and review of 2015 activities

Creative Europe programme (2014–2020):

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland appointed a DCAL-funded Creative Europe Desk Officer in November 2014 and the Committee has received briefing from them as part of its audit of EU-related activity by DCAL and its Arms-Length Bodies in 2015. The Committee agreed at its meeting on 21st January 2016 to seek updates from the Creative Europe Desk Officer of a range of issues around NI drawdown of Creative Europe funding, and comparisons with other UK regions and the Republic of Ireland. The Committee continues to believe that it is

vital that it works with the Department, ACNI and key stakeholders to provide opportunities to disseminate information regarding how to engage with and to apply to the fund. Additionally, the Committee will highlight this important work in its Legacy Report and suggest that the Committee for Communities continues to engage with the Creative Europe programme.

Horizon 2020 (2014-2020):

Although this is essentially an R&D funding programme, the Committee continues to believe that there is considerable potential for the Creative Industries to make use of Horizon 2020. The Committee highlighted the potential of this fund for the Creative Industries in its Inquiry into Maximising the Potential of the Creative Industries in Northern Ireland in 2013, and the Committee's audit of DCAL and its ALBs' engagement with the EU suggests that there is still a long way to go. In its Legacy Report, the Committee will advise the Committee for Communities to continue to seek out examples of successful engagement with Horizon 2020 from the creative sector, and to work to support capacity building to enable this success to be replicated.

European Capital of Culture (ECOC)

The European Capital of Culture programme has been formally extended until 2033. The next UK opportunity will be in 2023, and applications from any interested Northern Ireland cities must be ready to submit an application in 2016. After its very successful year as UK City of Culture in 2013, Derry/Londonderry would be well placed to make an application as a European Capital of Culture in 2023.

Sport (Erasmus+)

The EU was given 'a supporting, coordinating and supplementing competence for sport which calls for action to develop the European dimension in sport' in Article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty. While this is a fairly new competency and the EU is largely still exploring how it can have a positive impact on sport, funding is one key area which it has now identified. The Committee believes that there is some potential for sports bodies and clubs etc. to draw down some of this funding. The Committee has particularly focused on the sports strand of the new Erasmus+ programme. There is a €210m fund available for sport and it is open to:

- Public sporting bodies;
- Sporting organisations, leagues, and clubs at any level;
- Sporting unions or representations;
- Organisations active in promoting physical activity, including social inclusion in sports; and
- Event organisers in the sport sector.

The fund may be used for three specific project types:

- Transnational collaborative projects:
 - Projects tackling issues affective the integrity of sport (such as doping, violence or match-fixing) on a cross-border basis;
 - Promoting cross-border good governance and support for ensuring support for athletes to stay in education or work while playing sport; and
 - Promoting voluntary sporting activity and equal access on a cross-border basis.

- Not-for-profit major sporting events involving at least 12 countries can receive support for:
 - Promotional activity;
 - Transnational training for participants, volunteers or coaches;
 - Side activities (seminars, workshops etc.) related to the event; and
 - Legacy activities.
- Research into producing evidence-based policy for sport related to:
 - Participation in physical activities;
 - Prevalence of discrimination;
 - The presence of social inclusion measures; and
 - Levels of corruption, violence, and doping in sport.

The first **European Week of Sport (EWOS)** took place in September 2015. The Committee is continuing to engage with Sport NI with respect to its plans for the EWOS in September 2016. In its Legacy Report, the Committee will recommend to the Committee for Communities that it continues this work.

The aim of the event is to promote exercise and sport at all levels. Guidance is as follows:

- The focus should be broader than sport to bring in large parts of society; physical activity should be added to the scope of the week and cross-sectoral partnerships should be created;
- An EU summit on sport (broader than the EU Sport Forum) could be organised;
- Flagship event(s) should be organised and specific theme(s) per year in line with the EU policy agenda should be considered;
- Standard events should be envisaged, and specific days of the week should be reserved for different target groups;
- Positive early sport experiences for children including a relational element would be key, as well as efforts to seek integration of physical activity in everyday life;
- Activities to strengthen the evidence base should be envisaged, e.g. launching of studies/surveys and organising conferences involving academics and research institutes to discuss results and exchange best practices;
- Existing initiatives should be given visibility during an EWoS; experiences from national activities should be taken into account;
- Specific sports for people with a disability and inclusive sport activities should be promoted;
- Open doors or substantial discounts and promotions at the local level in e.g. public sport facilities, sport clubs, fitness clubs, swimming pools, should be envisaged;
- Physical activity / education in schools would need specific attention; and
- Different kinds of awards (e.g. most active city, teacher, club) could be created.

Workplan for Culture (2015-18)

In November 2014 a Workplan for Culture 2015–2018 was established, containing four key policy areas: **accessible culture; cultural heritage; creative economy and innovation; and culture in the EU external relations**. Below these over-arching key priorities, the workplan states that working groups of experts will be put together to examine and explore 13 specific ‘topics’. In its Legacy Report, the Committee will recommend that the Committee for Communities focuses on the following:

- **Development of ‘cultural awareness and expression’:** experts will identify good practice for the development of this key competence and its integration into education policies.
- **Promoting access to culture via digital means:** the ‘impact of the digital shift’ on the way in which audiences engage with culture will be examined.
- **Fostering the contribution of culture to social inclusion:** good practice will be identified where culture has made a significant contribution to policy areas such as healthcare, social care, and prison services.
- **Access to finance:** the ‘financial ecosystem’ of the cultural and creative sectors will be examined to identify the performance of alternative financial instruments such as loans, equities, business angels, crowdfunding and venture capital.

The Committee also believes that a number of issues around corruption in sport have arisen, and further revelations are being made on an ongoing basis. This will also be an important issue to flag up to the Committee for Communities’ attention.

EELS

The Committee has engaged extensively in this issue and it is important that the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs continues to keep a watching brief on the work being undertaken by the EU regarding the management of eels. It is likely that any outcomes will have an impact on the increasingly successful eel industry on Lough Neagh.