Fashion and tourism

111. Considers that fashion and cultural and sustainable tourism should be added to the sectors identified in the Green Paper as forming part of the CCI; points out that the two sectors are characterised by a high degree of creativity and an entrepreneurial spirit which has a significant impact on the economy and international competitiveness of the EU;

112. Highlights the considerable importance of tourism to the CCI and recommends that the Commission encourage cities and regions to make greater use of culture as a unique asset, to cooperate more closely with one another in the realm of cultural tourism, to develop forms of cooperation between the cultural sector and the tourism sector and to support both sectors in joint marketing efforts;

International relations and trade

113. Highlights the importance of the above-mentioned Unesco Convention as an essential instrument to guarantee that the 'cultural exception' in international trade in goods and services of a cultural and creative nature is maintained within the international framework of the WTO;

114. Notes, as regards promotion of cultural exchange and diversity, that access to third-country markets is subject to many tariff and non-tariff barriers which, together with the insecurity of the distribution and exploitation networks, makes it difficult for European culture to have a genuine presence;

115. Stresses the great potential of CCI in international trade and assumes that its significance is being underestimated owing to the difficulty of gathering data;

116. Calls on the Commission, in view of the proliferation of bilateral trade agreements, to submit to Parliament a clear, overall strategy on the cultural cooperation protocols (CCP) annexed to those agreements, with a view to adapting the offer of European cooperation to the needs and specific characteristics of CCI in the partner countries, in accordance with the commitments undertaken in the WTO and the spirit and letter of the Unesco Convention;

117. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to boost the export of cultural and creative products and services and strive to raise the profile of Europe's CCI outside the EU;

*

* *

118. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

Sarajevo as a European Capital of Culture in 2014

P7_TA(2011)0241

European Parliament resolution of 12 May 2011 on Sarajevo as a European Capital of Culture 2014

(2012/C 377 E/20)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to Article 167(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Thursday 12 May 2011

— having regard to Decision No 1622/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community action for the European Capital of Culture event for the years 2007 to 2019 ([1]),

— having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the terms and conditions for full participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Culture Programme 2007-2013 signed on 21 December 2010,

— having regard to Rules 115(5) and 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas a Community action entitled 'European Capital of Culture' has been established in order to highlight the richness and diversity of European cultures and the features they share, as well as to promote greater mutual understanding between Europeans,

B. whereas the above-mentioned decision establishing a Community action for the European Capital of Culture event for the years 2007 to 2019 currently applies only to the EU Member States,

C. whereas on several occasions cities from third European countries have been given the opportunity to win the title of European Capital of Culture,

D. whereas Sarajevo has a special place in European history and culture and will commemorate several important anniversaries in 2014,

E. whereas the City Council of Sarajevo and local cultural operators have undertaken extensive preparations in their candidature for this title,

1. Calls on the Council to award the title of European Capital of Culture exceptionally to Sarajevo in 2014;

2. Believes that this would be an important step towards transcending past European divisions and showcasing the New Europe by awarding the title of European Capital of Culture to a city which was the site of such tragic events in the course of the 20th century;

3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the Committee of the Regions.

([1]) OJ L 304, 3.11.2006, p. 1.

Sri Lanka: follow-up of the UN Report

P7_TA(2011)0242

European Parliament resolution of 12 May 2011 on the situation in Sri Lanka

(2012/C 377 E/21)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the report of 31 March 2011 of the UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka,

— having regard to the UN Secretary-General's statement of 25 April 2011 on the public release of the panel of experts' report on Sri Lanka,