EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

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2012/0199 (COD)

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

pursuant to Article 294(6) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

concerning the

position of the Council on the adoption of a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033

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1. BACKGROUND

Date of transmission of the proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council (document COM (2012) 407 final – 2012/0199 (COD))	20 July 2012
Date of the opinion of the Committee of the Regions	30 November 2012
Date of the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee	N/A
Date of the position of the European Parliament, first reading	12 December 2013
Date of adoption of the position of the Council	24 March 2014

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSAL FROM THE COMMISSION

The current legal base for the European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) (Decision 1622/2006/EC) includes a chronological list of Member States indicating the order in which they are entitled to host the event until 2019. The national competitions for the title are launched six years in advance in order to give the cities sufficient time to prepare for the title-year. Therefore, a new legal base for the continuation of the ECoC should be adopted in 2014 in order to ensure a smooth transition in 2020. Against this background, the Commission tabled a Proposal for a Decision covering the period from 2020 to 2033.

3. COMMENTS ON THE POSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Following informal tripartite discussions on 17 September 2013, 16 October 2013, and 22 January 2014, the Parliament, the Council and the Commission reached provisional political agreement on the Decision text.

This political agreement was confirmed by the Council on 29 January 2014, and on 24 March 2014 the Council adopted its first reading position.

4. CONCLUSION

As all amendments introduced to the Commission proposal were agreed on during the informal tripartite discussions, the Commission can accept the amendments that the Council adopted in its first reading position.