Dear XXX,

Culture and the arts are crucial factors in helping the European societies to face global challenges. They stimulate social engagement and cohesion, contribute to citizens’ well-being, underpin democratic participation and make a significant contribution to economy and employment\*.

Creative Europe, the EU’s programme for cultural and creative sectors in 2014-2021, has played a crucial role in the development and capacity building of the cultural sector. The programme has created a pan-European forum for exchanging and accumulating knowledge on the issues relevant to the cultural professionals in today’s reality. The programme has also proven its potential to foster international cooperation and mobility of cultural operators, and circulation of artworks across Europe.

Therefore, it is essential that Creative Europe continues in 2021-2027. Moreover, an increase doubling the programme’s budget is necessary, given that the current Creative Europe is over-subscribed and suffers from severe under-investment, despite its proven demand, efficacy and huge relevance.

Having heard the strong and multiple pleas of the European cultural sector, the European Parliament proposes doubling the Creative Europe programme budget from €1.4bn to €2.8bn. The Parliament's Interim Report on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 has been approved at the plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 14 November and will be brought to the political debate on 13-14 December.

We endorse the European Parliament's position and ask please for your support in defending the budget increase for culture and making a strong Creative Europe programme 2021-2027 a reality.

Yours sincerely,

XXX

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\*The impact review “[The Value and Values of Culture](https://cultureactioneurope.org/knowledge/the-value-and-values-of-culture/)” by Culture Action Europe has substantiated “[20 reasons why](https://cultureactioneurope.org/projects/1-percent-for-culture-campaign/20-reasons-why/)” culture merits financial support in the next 2020 EU budget.