

"Culture is an essential part of the EU's international relations": Council adopts Conclusions

On 23 May the Council adopted **conclusions on culture in the European Union's external relations**. The conclusions follow the joint communication from the High Representative and the European Commission of 8 June 2016 entitled "Towards an EU Strategy for international cultural relations" of 8 June 2016". They provide guidance on the **EU's strategic approach to international cultural relations**.

The conclusions underline that such an approach should be bottom-up and should respect the independence of the cultural sector. They recognise that international cultural relations can only develop by **encouraging cultural diversity within the EU**, and they call for consistency and coherence of effort.

In order to take forward this work, the Council has agreed as a next step that a working group will be established to assist in drawing up a **comprehensive EU strategic approach to international cultural relations**. This work will be supported by the Commission and European External Action Service, drawing on the existing **cultural diplomacy platform** which was set up in 2016 to help promote the EU's cultural engagement with third countries.

[Read the full text of the Council conclusions](#)

[Culture diplomacy platform](#)

[A new strategy to put culture at the heart of EU international relations - Commission press release of 8 June 2016](#)