

Communiqué
from the 20th Meeting of the Ministers for Culture
of the Visegrad Group Countries
Budapest, 4-5 February 2010

A meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the Visegrad Group Countries took place in Budapest on 5 February 2010.

The meeting of the Ministers of Culture was preceded by a working meeting of ministerial experts, which took place on 4 February. In preparation for the Experts' Report, for the Meeting of the Ministers of Culture the following day the topics below were discussed:

1. Progress achieved with the implementation of cultural programmes since the 19th Meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the Visegrad Group Countries in Warsaw in 2009.
2. The ongoing project Colloquium of Library-Information employees from the V4 countries.
3. Information on the working group on cultural heritage in the V4 countries and their new proposals.
4. The follow-up of the V4 Seminar on Realisation of EU funds in the wide scale of cultural programmes.
5. Challenges of supporting joint cultural projects implemented by partners from the Visegrad countries.
6. New project proposals.
7. The selection procedure for 'International Visegrad Prize 2009'.

The following commitments were made in the meeting of the Ministers:

1. The Ministers accepted the joint Experts' Report and expressed their satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the individual programmes.
2. The Ministers acknowledged the information on the programmes and achievements of the International Visegrad Fund.
3. The Ministers welcomed the programmes complying with the priorities of the Hungarian Visegrad Presidency.
4. It was underlined that strengthening cultural cooperation within the Visegrad Group through completed, implemented and new projects, supporting joint promotional activities for V4 cultural programmes is to be continued.

5. The new projects as Conference on the role of theatre in V4 countries after 1989, the Follow-up Seminar on Realisation of EU Funds in the Field of Culture as the continuation of the Hungarian initiative in this field, and Visegrad Days 2011 have been accepted.
6. The Ministers acknowledged the ongoing Colloquium of Library Information employees from the V4 countries and voiced their support for organising the 3rd Colloquium in Poland in 2011.
7. Joint activities are to be supported with international organisations, with particular attention given to UNESCO.
8. The Ministers highly appreciated the implementation of the V4 Literary Anthology projects. Following the success of the original five language edition as well as the Arabic-English edition they declared their support for the subsequent project in Spanish.
9. The Ministers expressed their appreciation of the activities of the working group on cultural heritage in the V4 countries, for the summer course on Management of UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Sites and the conferences to be held in Czech Republic and Poland in 2010 and 2011.
10. Ministers agreed that a special strategy is required in V4 countries to prevent access to culture being determined by the social and financial status of individuals and that significant attention should also be paid to the civil sector.
11. The significance of EU funds for the development of cultural infrastructure, protection of cultural heritage and implementation of cultural programmes has been underlined. The Ministers expressed their wish for deepening the cooperation on the utilisation of EU funds in the culture sector and stressed the need for common strategy of V4 countries to be fulfilled during the negotiations period of the new EU Financing Perspective 2014-2020. The main goal of this strategy is to strengthen the position of culture in the EU budget.
12. The Ministers welcomed the ongoing project European Capital of Cultural Pécs 2010 and supported the sharing of experiences in V4 countries, having in mind the preparations for Košice, Slovakia (2013) and the future plans in Czech Republic (2015) and Poland (2016).
13. The Ministers welcomed the information on the priorities and preliminary programmes of the Hungarian Presidency in the Council of the European Union in the area of culture.
14. The Ministers highly appreciated the idea of promoting the V4 cooperation across the EU countries through all V4 initiatives.
15. Dedicated years to celebrate the anniversary of the great composers Frederic Chopin 2010 and Ferenc Liszt 2011 are supported.

16. The Ministers accepted the candidate of Slovakia, the composer Vladimír Godár for the International Visegrad Prize 2009 to be awarded in the next meeting.

The parties agreed that the next meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the Visegrad Group Countries will take place in Slovakia in 2011.

Signed in Budapest on 5 February 2010

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István HILLER

Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Hungary

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Václav RIEDLBAUCH

Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

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Monika SMOLEŇ

Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland

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Augustín Jozef LANG

State Secretary, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic