

Review of the Balance of Competences



Visiting Arts / UK Cultural Contact Point RESPONSE TO:

CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF THE BALANCE OF COMPETENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Culture Questions

- *How important is EU funding to the UK Cultural sector? And how beneficial to the UK is the EU's focus on a shared cultural heritage?*

An estimated EUR 34 million has come to the UK since 2007 through the Culture programme (as of mid August 2013).

- *Are EU cultural programmes effective and how can they be improved?*

Yes they are effective in the calls and initial management, selection processes are transparent, however this year the administration was not up to standard. Payments are always a long time after the end of the events, which is very problematic for project funded organisations.

General Questions

- *What evidence is there that EU action in the areas of Culture, Tourism and/or Sport benefits or disadvantages the UK?*

As all grants are additional, these projects would not happen without the EU funding so clear evidence of benefit. Direct benefit is the funding (see above) indirect is increase in cultural exports, leveraged funding, expanded markets, increased skills, more innovative approaches and new business models for cultural project.

- *Do you think the EU should do more, or less in relation to Culture, Tourism and Sport, and why?*

More funding of the programme would be useful. In terms of Open Method of Coordination – structured dialogue with the sector – these could be more and more diverse in approach.

- *What are the benefits or disadvantages of directing funding through the EU rather than national arrangements?*

National arrangements would not have the competence to assess transnational projects and programmes. It would be impossible to set up bi-lateral agreements with all 28 member states.

- *Have you noticed any change in EU activity or emphasis since the 2009 Treaty of Lisbon and is this welcome?*

The culture section was unchanged at Lisbon, however, the emphasis on innovation and new technologies were welcomed by the sector.

- *What other areas of EU competence or activity impact on your sector and how?*

General employment legislation such as the working time directive

- *What international bodies or arrangements are important to your sector beyond the EU?*

UN, OECD, networks such as IFACCA – world trade organisation affects the media sector.

- *How could the EU co-ordinate its activity in these areas of competence to greater effect?*

Information and evaluation could be better disseminated, as could national data and evaluations.

Please do not feel the need to limit your evidence to these issues, we are interested to receive any views you have about how the balance of competences between the EU and UK impact on Culture, Media and Sport.