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Answer given by Ms Gabriel
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.3.2021)

The Commission is fully aware that the cultural and creative sectors are among those most severely affected by the pandemic, and welcomes the initiative of the Spanish Government to support culture, ‘La cultura es segura’.

The Commission is ensuring that EU-wide solutions are available for the cultural and creative sectors (CCS), which are pivotal to people’s physical and mental wellbeing. CCS will also be crucial to the overall recovery of European societies, the revival of social cohesion and the relaunch of people’s centred innovation. For example, the new European Bauhaus¹ intends to create a space for reflection and experimentation, a hub for global networks involving architects, artists, engineers and civil society.

The reinforced Creative Europe programme² 2021-2027 will provide targeted support to help the CCS, mostly micro or small organisations, to reach their economic potential, contributing to sustainable growth, jobs, and social cohesion. A number of horizontal instruments are available, such as the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe package (REACT-EU)³, which will top up cohesion policy for 2021-2022⁴ from the European Union Recovery Instrument. The Commission has been actively encouraging Member States to use these tools for CCS. Horizon Europe⁵, which will dedicate a cluster on ‘Culture, creativity and inclusive society’, can also provide new opportunities for research in the cultural and creative sectors.

¹ https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2405

³ OJ L 437, 28.12.2020, p. 30-42; Regulation (EU) 2020/2221.

⁴ In 2018 prices (EUR 50.6 billion in current prices).

⁵ COM/2018/435 final.