

## Yes to the new Swiss-EU treaties – but only if Switzerland joins Creative Europe!

### Management Summary on the Consultation «Stabilisation and Further Development of Relations between Switzerland and the EU»

Taskforce Culture, an alliance of over 100 cultural associations and organisations, welcomes the EU package of agreements negotiated by the Federal Council as an important step towards securing the bilateral path. Education, academic research and mobility are rightly included in the agreements – but culture is missing. Culture is not a side issue: it is system-relevant, strengthens democracy, reduces vulnerability to manipulation and extremism, and contributes significantly to Switzerland's resilience, prosperity and security. It is also a key economic factor.

## Key Requests

### 1. Accession to «Creative Europe»

- «Creative Europe» (2021–2027 budget: EUR 2.44 billion) is the EU's main programme for culture and the creative industries.
- Swiss cultural actors have been largely excluded since 2014, with serious consequences for competitiveness and international networking.
- Unlike other sectors, the cultural field received no compensatory measures, further aggravating the imbalance.
- Participation in the «Culture» strand would already be possible today without prior legislative changes.

#### → Request

Immediate opening of negotiations for Switzerland's (re-)association to «Creative Europe».

## 2. Safeguarding cultural funding under state-aid rules

When adopting EU state-aid provisions, Switzerland must make full use of the cultural exemption under Article 107(3)(d) TFEU.

### → Request

Guarantees that film support, music export, cultural prizes, heritage promotion and similar instruments can continue without restriction.

## 3. Mobility and exchange

Association with «Erasmus+» will open new opportunities for professional development and international cooperation also for cultural actors.

### → Request

Ensure that existing Swiss replacement schemes are seamlessly integrated into «Erasmus+» and made accessible to the cultural sector.

## 4. Institutionalised cultural dialogue

The agreements foresee structured political dialogues on academic research, health and energy – but none on culture.

### → Request

Establish a regular bilateral Switzerland–EU cultural dialogue, e.g. through a culture forum or dedicated working groups.

## Conclusion

Taskforce Culture supports the Swiss-EU package of agreements as a whole, while calling for improvements: **Switzerland's association to «Creative Europe»; full protection of cultural funding under EU state-aid law; inclusion of the cultural sector in «Erasmus+»; and, an institutionalised Switzerland–EU cultural dialogue.**

Only these measures will ensure that Switzerland strengthens its cultural diversity and creativity, safeguards its democratic resilience, and maintains its capacity for international action as part of the European cultural space.