

Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe

- 1. Resolution tabled pursuant to Rule 132(2) and (4) of the European Parliament's Rules of procedure**
- 2. Reference numbers:** 2019/2819(RSP) / B9-0097/2019 / P9_TA-PROV(2019)0021
- 3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 19 September 2019
- 4. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)
- 5. Brief analysis/assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The resolution contains 22 recommendations. Most of the recommendations are addressed to the Member States and to the Council. In this reply, the Commission only addresses those recommendations that fall under its competences.

- 6. Response to requests and overview of action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

The Commission takes note of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament.

Raising awareness of Europe's common history and values and reinforcing a sense of belonging to a common European space was one of the objectives of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage. In this context, 'Europe for Citizens' supported a number of historic memory and remembrance projects.

Regarding the paragraph 12 calling on the Commission to provide effective support for projects of historic memory and remembrance in the Member States and for the activities of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, and to allocate adequate financial resources under the 'Europe for Citizens' programme to support commemoration and remembrance of the victims of totalitarianism, as set out in Parliament's position on the 2021-2027 Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme:

From 2014 to 2020

With the support of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), the Commission has been implementing the Europe for Citizens programme since 2014. This 7-year programme (Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014) will end in 2020.

Its general objectives are to:

- contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity, and
- foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level.

One of its specific objectives is to:

- raise awareness of remembrance, the common history and values of the EU and the EU's aim, namely to promote peace, the values of the EU and the well-being of its peoples by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks (European remembrance strand).

The total budget for the programme for the 2014-2020 period is EUR 187 718 000. Of this total approximately 20 % is devoted to the remembrance strand.

The programme uses action grants to support projects and operating grants to support organisations.

In 2019, out of 266 submitted applications, 45 European remembrance projects were selected for funding for a total amount of EUR 3 004 000.

Should organisations such as the Platform of European Memory and Conscience wish to apply for EU financial support under the Europe for Citizens programme, priorities and rules for participation are set in the work programmes and further detailed in the calls for proposals and in the guidelines for applicants.

EU support to remembrance after 2020

The Commission proposed in May 2018 a new instrument, the Justice, Rights and Values Fund. The budget allocation for the Justice, Rights and Values Fund is of EUR 947 million over the seven years (2021 – 2027).

This Fund includes the Justice programme and a new Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme that groups together two programmes of the 2014 - 2020 period, namely the Europe for Citizens programme and the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme.

Under the new programme, funding is proposed for increasing citizens' understanding of the Union, its history, cultural heritage and diversity. The new programme will thus continue supporting work on remembrance after 2020.

Based on the Commission proposal, partial political agreement was reached with the European Parliament and the Council on the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme on 6 March 2019.

The Commission strongly believes that this new programme will guarantee the continuation of the activities on remembrance of the current Europe for citizens' programme and increase the EU's potential to promote and protect rights and values in this challenging moment for the European Union.

Regarding the potential distortion of historical facts (paragraph 16), the Strategic Communications team of the European External Action Service, and in particular the East Stratcom Task Force, has constantly raised awareness about Russia's disinformation, including distortion of historical facts, since 2015. Through EUvsDisinfo¹ website, it has exposed publically nearly 100 examples of pro-Kremlin disinformation about the World War II and many messages about the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. All cases can be found in the publicly available database.

¹ <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/>