

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0064/09
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Doris Pack, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
to the Commission

Subject: The role of culture in the development of European regions

European culture is one of the most significant pillars of the present and future of the European Union. The development of Europe depends on the power of culture, which must be used in a sustainable manner. This will ensure that we have a Europe of Europeans, and not just a Europe of institutions, administrations and regulations. Europe's cultural potential needs to be strategically utilised for the structural and promotional policies supporting development in its regions and cities. On the other hand, local policy-makers in European cities and regions also bear Europe-wide responsibility when preparing local cultural policies.

Since culture projects based on engagement of the public and its creativity appear to be particularly effective at regional and local level, while at the same time strengthening its potential, could the Commission say:

1. when it is going to present the Green Paper with a possible range of actions for cultural activities aimed at strengthening development in European regions?
2. whether and, if so, how it is going to support regional conferences, together with regional authorities and the local civil society?
3. what concrete measures it is planning so as to engage civil society actors in preparation for and implementation of cultural projects?

Tabled: 17.03.2009

Forwarded: 19.03.2009

Deadline for reply: 26.03.2009