



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**MEMO**

Brussels, 11 July 2012

**Visit by Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou to France, 12-14 July**

Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, is to visit Arles, Avignon and Aix-en-Provence in France from 12 to 14 July. During her visit, she will meet the French Minister for Culture, Aurélie Filippetti, and will take the opportunity to discuss what progress has been made in the institutional negotiations on "Creative Europe", the new programme proposed for the cultural and audiovisual sectors, and to discuss other current issues.

The Commissioner will also take part in a seminar entitled: "Pour une action internationale croisée des centres culturels européens" (cross-cutting international action by European Cultural Centres) organised by the Institut Français, where she will present "Creative Europe" to the directors of the Institut Français, the Goethe-Institut, the British Council, Pro Helvetia and the Instituto Cervantes. The purpose of the seminar will be to consider how to create a stronger image for European culture.

Commissioner Vassiliou has also been invited to open the fourth "Rencontres Européennes Culture et Education" (European culture and education conference), which will deal this year with youth creativity and inter-generational projects. Teachers, students, artists, educational project leaders and educational decision-makers will be invited to discuss a subject central to the arts and our societies: how to be creative, for and with participants of all ages.

During this visit the Commissioner will also meet the organisers of "Marseille 2013", since Marseille will be a European Capital of Culture next year. During the three days, Commissioner Vassiliou will also have the opportunity to meet celebrities and artists from festivals of international renown in different fields: the Rencontres d'Arles (photography), the Avignon festival (theatre) and the Aix-en-Provence Festival (opera).

These three festivals have received or are currently receiving financial support from the European Commission under the Culture Programme (€100 000 in 2011 for the Rencontres d'Arles, €1.05 million since 2007 for the Avignon Festival, €395 000 since 2009 for the Aix-en-Provence Festival itself, and a subsidy of €2.5 million for a multi-annual cooperation project for the training of professionals in opera and the vocal arts, both in France and at European level).

**To find out more**

[DG Education and Culture](#)

[Commissioner Vassiliou's website](#)

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