An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Report of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Under Section 2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act, 2002

for the period January to June 2020

Introduction

This report is in two parts. The first part sets out the principal developments in the policy areas which fell within the responsibility of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht during the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union from January to June 2020 and the second part provides a summary of draft EU legislative proposals submitted by the Department for review by the Oireachtas during that period.

Part 1

Summary of Developments during the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Culture

Resulting from outbreak of Covid- 19 two Ministerial Meetings took place by VC at which the Ministers discussed initiatives and measures undertaken in MS to mitigate the effects of Covid-19 on culture and creative industries and to exchange best practice and lessons learned. A Joint statement was subsequently published on the website of the Presidency.

In the Culture and Audiovisual policy area Council Conclusions were published in respect of the following:

- Council Conclusions on Risk Management in the Area of Cultural Heritage;
- Council Conclusions on Media Literacy in an Ever changing World;
- Council Conclusions on amending the Work Plan for Culture (2019-2022);

Planned trilogue negotiations on the Creative Europe programme (2021 – 2027) did not take place.

An EU-Korea audiovisual co-productions agreement which benefits the parties from the respective schemes o for the promotion of local/regional cultural content was extended for a duration of a further three years, from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023.

A Commission compromise to prolong Galway (and Rijeka in Croatia) as European Capitals of Culture to the end of April 2021 has been proposed to MS and subject to EP and Council should be approved during the DE Presidency.

Heritage

The Croatian Presidency had four main priorities in regards to the Environment:

1. The European Green Deal,
2. Transition to climate neutrality by 2050 and climate change adaptation,
3. **Conservation of biodiversity**
4. Protection of the marine environment from pollution.

In respect of item 3 above the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 which is a priority under the Green deal was published on 20th May 2020. The Strategy entitled '*Bringing Nature back into our lives'* sets out an ambitious and wide ranging set of targets and measures for biodiversity over the coming years. It will be necessary to link and complement the other activities and strategies in particular farm to fork under CAP. Extensive consultation both at national level, across respective Government Departments and across MS to agree the targets and methods of delivery is under way currently. An initial discussion paper on EU Biodiversity Strategy 2023 was prepared, circulated and discussed in June, ahead of the initial drafting of Council Conclusions which will take place under the German Presidency with a view to adoption at October Council of Environment Ministers.

Gaeltacht

Irish Language Derogation Regulation (Council Regulation 2015/2264)

The action plan for achieving a full Irish Language regime in the EU institutions is being implemented by the Irish Authorities in collaboration with the EU institutions**.** Allowing for the restrictions as a result of Covid there has been a strong emphasis on communication activities with a view to raising awareness in relation to Irish language roles in the EU institutions, both within the Irish language community in general and also the wider community, with some workshops taking place online since the end of March.

Part 2

Update on Proposals/Measures submitted for review by the Oireachtas

Commission Proposal Number	Proposal/ Measure	Date examined by Committee	Current update on Proposal
COM(20) 008	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) with regard to proposals from various parties to amend the Appendices to that Convention, and on the withdrawal of a reservation notified to that Convention.	Not examined	The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) together with the associated meetings of the Standing Committee was held in Gandhinagar, India from 15 to 22 February 2020. Ireland agreed with the EU position on this matter. It had no effect on national or EU legislation.

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Tuarascáil ón Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

chuig Tithe an Oireachtais

Faoi Alt 2(5) d'Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002

don tréimhse ó Eanáir go Meitheamh 2020

Réamhrá

Tá dhá chuid sa tuarascáil seo. Sa chéad chuid, leagtar amach na príomhfhorbairtí atá déanta sna réimsí beartais a tháinig faoi fhreagracht na Roinne Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta le linn Uachtaránacht na Cróite ar an Aontas Eorpach ó Eanáir go Meitheamh 2020 agus sa dara cuid, cuirtear achoimre ar fáil ar dhréacht-thograí reachtacha AE arna gcur ar aghaidh ag an Roinn lena n-athbhreithniú ag an Oireachtas le linn na tréimhse sin.

Cuid 1

Achoimre ar Fhorbairtí le linn Uachtaránacht na Cróite ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh

Cultúr

Mar thoradh ar an ráig Covid-19, tionóladh dhá Chruinniú Airí ar VC inar phléigh na hAirí tionscnaimh agus bearta a tugadh fúthu in MS chun na tionchair a bheadh ag Covid-19 ar thionscail chultúir agus chruthaitheachta a mhaolú agus chun dea-chleachtas agus ceachtanna foghlama a roinnt. Rinneadh ráiteas i bpáirt a fhoilsiú ina dhiaidh sin ar láithreán gréasáin na hUachtaránachta.

Maidir le réimse beartais an Chultúir agus Closamhairc, rinneadh Conclúidí ón gComhairle a fhoilsiú i ndáil leis na nithe seo a leanas:

- Conclúidí ón gComhairle ar Bhainistiú Riosca i Réimse an Chultúir Oidhreachta;
- Conclúidí ón gComhairle ar Thuiscintí ar na Meáin i nDomhan a bhíonn ag athrú Síoraí;
- Conclúidí ón gComhairle maidir leis an bPlean Oibre don Chultúr a leasú (2019-2022);

Níor tionóladh an idirbheartaíocht thrípháirteach phleanáilte ar an gclár Eoraip na Cruthaitheachta (2021 - 2027).

Cuireadh síneadh ar feadh tréimhse trí bliana breise, ón 1 Iúil 2020 go dtí an 30 Meitheamh 2023 le comhaontú comhléiriúcháin closamhairc AE-an Chóiré atá chun leasa na bpáirtithe ó na scéimeanna faoi seach chun ábhar áitiúil/réigiúnach a chur chun cinn.

Tá comhréiteach Coimisiúin chun fad a chur le tréimhse na Gaillimhe (chomh maith le Rijeka sa Chróit) ina bPríomhchathracha Cultúir Eorpacha go dtí deireadh Aibreán 2021 molta chuig MS agus faoi réir EP agus na Comhairle, ba chóir go ndéanfaí sin a cheadú le linn Uachtaránacht DE.

Oidhreacht

Bhí ceithre phríomhthosaíocht ag Uachtaránacht na Cróite maidir leis an gComhshaol:

1. Margadh Glas na hEorpa,
2. Aistriú chuig neodracht aeráide faoin mbliain 2050 agus oiriúnú maidir le hathrú aeráide,
3. **An bhithéagsúlacht a chaomhnú**
4. An timpeallacht mhara a chosaint ó thruailliú.

Maidir le mír a 3 thuas, rinneadh straitéis Bithéagsúlachta an AE don bhliain 2030, ar tosaíocht í faoin margadh Glas, a fhoilsiú an 20 Bealtaine 2020. Leagtar amach sa Straitéis dar teideal '*Bringing Nature back into our lives'* réimse spriocanna agus bearta uaillmhianacha agus leathana don bhithéagsúlacht sna blianta amach romhainn. Beidh gá leis na gníomhaíochtaí agus straitéisí a nascadh agus a chomhlánú go háirithe 'ón bhfeirm go dtí an forc' faoi CAP. Comhairliúchán fairsing ag leibhéal náisiúnta, ar fud Ranna Rialtais faoi seach agus ar fud MS araon chun na spriocanna a chomhaontú agus tá na bealaí a ndéanfar iad a bhaint amach ar siúl faoi láthair. Rinneadh plépháipéar tosaigh ar Straitéis Bithéagsúlachta an AE 2023 a ullmhú, a scaipeadh agus a phlé i Meitheamh, sular dréachtaíodh Comhairliúcháin ón gComhairle ar dtús a tharlóidh le linn Uachtaránacht na Gearmáine d'fhonn iad a ghlacadh ag Comhairle na nAirí Comhshaoil i mí Dheireadh Fómhair.

Gaeltacht

Rialachán maidir le Maolú ar an nGaeilge (Rialachán ón gComhairle 2015/2264)

Tá an plean gníomhaíochta chun réimeas iomlán Gaeilge a bhaint amach in institiúidí an AE á chur i bhfeidhm ag Údaráis na hÉireann i gcomhar le hinstitiúidí an AE. Ag glacadh na srianta atá i bhfeidhm mar gheall ar Covid, leagadh béim mhór ar ghníomhaíochtaí cumarsáide d'fhonn feasacht i leith rólanna Gaeilge in Institiúidí an AE a ardú, laistigh de phobal na Gaeilge trí chéile agus sa phobal níos leithne araon, agus tá roinnt ceardlann curtha ar fáil ar líne ó dheireadh mhí Márta.

Cuid 2

An tEolas is Déanaí maidir le Tograí/Bearta arna gcur ar aghaidh lena n-athbhreithniú ag an Oireachtas

Uimhir Thogra Coimisiúin	Togra/Beart	An dáta arna scrúdú ag an gCoiste	An tEolas is Déanaí ar an Togra faoi láthair
COM (20) 008	Togra le haghaidh CINNEADH ÓN gCOMHAIRLE maidir leis an seasamh a bheidh le glacadh, thar ceann an Aontais Eorpaigh, ag an tríú cruinniú déag de Chomhdháil na bPáirtithe sa Choinbhinsiún maidir le caomhnú na speiceas imirceach ainmhithe fiáine (CMS) i ndáil le tograí ó pháirtithe éagsúla chun na Foscríbhinní a ghabhann leis an gCoinbhinsiún sin a leasú	Gan Scrúdú	Reáchtáladh an tríú cruinniú déag de Chomhdháil na bPáirtithe sa Choinbhinsiún maidir le Caomhnú na Speiceas Imirceach Ainmhithe Fiáine (CMS COP13) chomh maith le cruinnithe bhainteacha an Bhuanchoiste in Gandhinagar, an India ón 15 go dtí an 22 Feabhra 2020. D'aontaigh Éire le seasamh an AE maidir

	agus i ndáil le forchoimeádas a cuireadh in iúl don Choinbhinsiún sin a tharraingt siar.		leis an ábhar seo. Ní raibh aon éifeacht aige ar reachtaíocht náisiúnta ná ar reachtaíocht an AE.