

EN

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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
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Through the Creative Europe programme¹, the EU supports cross-border cooperation and innovation in the cultural heritage sector. While recognising the sector's economic and social contributions, the programme's core aim is to promote cultural diversity and fair access to cultural heritage sites.

The EU also facilitates the exchange of information and good practices between Member States on issues of mutual interest including, on complementary sources of funding for cultural heritage, which are crucial to ensuring the sector's long-term sustainability.

Additionally, the EU has contributed substantially to the construction of the new Acropolis Museum, to the restoration of Acropolis Monuments and to the accessibility of the Acropolis Museum collections through support for digitization. These EU-funded projects have significantly contributed to preserving Greece's cultural heritage and making it accessible to a wider audience, aligning with broader EU objectives of promoting cultural tourism, social cohesion, and preservation of shared European heritage.

Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)² stipulates that EU action is limited to encouraging cooperation between Member States and supporting and supplementing their actions, with a view to conserving and safeguarding cultural heritage of European significance.

¹ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>.

² OJ C 202/1, 7.6.2016; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12016E/TXT>.