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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission promotes an integrated and participatory approach to cultural heritage. Building on the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, it adopted the Culture Compass for Europe on 12 November 2025. The Culture Compass for Europe explicitly includes cultural heritage within its vision. This strategic framework integrates cultural heritage as a cornerstone of Europe's identity, resilience, democracy, social cohesion and sustainable development by embedding it across multiple EU policies.

By supporting initiatives like European Heritage Label, European Heritage Days, the European Heritage Awards, the European Heritage Hub and Europeana, the Commission ensures that cultural heritage is treated but as a key strategic resource that connects culture with technology, creativity and European values.

Moreover, the Commission works to improve access to existing funding instruments, notably Creative Europe. Evaluation data for 2021–2023 shows that 80% of beneficiaries under the Culture strand are micro or small organisations, confirming the programme's effectiveness in reaching smaller cultural actors. The CulturEU Funding Guide further facilitates access to EU funding for the cultural and creative sectors for 2021–2027.

Research and innovation on cultural heritage, including industrial heritage, is supported by Horizon Europe, notably its Cluster 2 with a part dedicated to cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries. This part of Horizon Europe funds R&I actions, for instance on sustainable cultural tourism, as well as digital cultural heritage (including industrial heritage).

The Commission supports structured EU-level cooperation through cultural networks that foster best practices and the sustainable reuse, and accessibility of Europe's industrial heritage.