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Press release

EU-US TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: THE EUROPEAN COALITIONS FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY WELCOME THE POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SUPPORTING CULTURAL EXCEPTION

The European Parliament, gathered in Plenary session in Strasbourg, sent yesterday a very good signal to the Council by adopting at a wide majority (391 votes in favor; 191 against; 17 abstentions) a provision which “calls for the exclusion of cultural and audiovisual services, including those provided online to be clearly stated in the negotiating mandate”.

Following the letter from the 14 European Culture Ministers, this position demonstrates that the message expressed by the petition of the European film-makers as well as the mobilization of the European cultural sector were taken into account. Beyond that, this means that the representatives of the European citizens heard all those who believe that cultural diversity is at the very basis of the European identity.

The European Coalitions urge the 27 Member States to acknowledge the European Parliament’s position and to follow its recommendation. In spite of Mr De Gucht and Mr Barroso statements, they deem that the exclusion of the audiovisual and cultural sectors from the EU-US trade mandate is the one and only way to guarantee that Member States retain their sovereign right to adopt and implement cultural policies, in accordance with the 2005 UNESCO Convention.

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