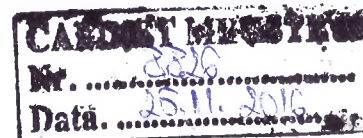




Ministry of Culture

The Minister



Mr. Martin SCHULTZ
President of the European Parliament
European Parliament

Mr. Marek MAĐARIČ
Minister of culture of Slovakia

Mr. Tibor NAVRACSICS
Commissioner in charge of culture
European Commission

Mr. Markku MARKKULA
President of the Committee of the Regions
Committee of the Regions

Dear Sirs,

Decision 445/2014/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 (hereinafter referred to as "the Decision") lays down the procedure for the designation of cities to the European Capital of Culture title.

Romania is one of the two Member States entitled to host a European Capital of Culture in 2021 together with Serbia as potential candidate.

The following cities in Romania replied to the call for submission of applications published by my services on 10 December 2014: Alba Iulia, Arad, Bacău, Baia Mare, Brăila, Braşov, Bucureşti, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iaşi, Sfântu Gheorghe, Suceava, Târgu Mureş and Timişoara.

The panel of independent experts established to carry out the selection procedure met on 7–10 December 2015, for a pre-selection meeting and short-listed the following candidate cities: Baia Mare, Bucureşti, Cluj-Napoca and Timişoara. The panel met again for a final selection meeting on 15 and 16 September 2016 to examine the revised and completed applications of the pre-selected cities and recommended that Timişoara be awarded the title of European Capital of Culture 2021 in Romania.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Decision, Romania designates the city of Timişoara to hold the title, on the basis of the recommendation contained in the selection report of the panel.

According to the selection report the cultural strategy of the city of Timişoara is comprehensive and was built up on the broad community participation as an interaction of the projects and objectives matching the intended outcomes.

The city of Timișoara proposed the cultural program under the dynamic theme “Shine your Light - Light up your city” and presented an interesting structure as a journey with power stations and territories. The proposed program is strong; it tackles edgy European themes and has a deep digital and audience development focus.

The panel was impressed that the central focus of Timișoara candidacy was to put people - cultural and creative agents, audiences and decision makers, throughout the project. The people will be the agents of change that will define the overall objective of the ECoC action. They are to set up the opportunity for a strong legacy of the capacity building programme the *Power station* by linking the long term impact of the ECoC with urban development.

Another positive element of the bid is the high level of support and engagement of the different communities' leaders and artists in this multilingual and multicultural city. Over 75% of the projects will be co-produced with cross-border and international partners and the proposed programme has strengths in addressing European themes.

As a result, I hereby notify the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, and the Committee of the Regions of that designation.

Yours sincerely,

Corina ȘUTEU,
Minister of Culture

