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Directorate-General Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States

Deputy Director-General

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Mr Erich Andriik,
Director
VIDC
Möllwaldplatz, 5/3
A - 1040 Vienna

Subject: Culture in the European Development Policy

Dear Mr Andriik,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February addressed to Director-General S. Manservigi, in which you send the message of the participants of the international conference 'European Network: Culture and Development', held in Vienna 25-27 January 2007. I have read this message with a great interest.

I would like to propose you that we **engage** in discussions with the civil society after the adoption of the draft *Communication on Culture in Development Policy*. These discussions would give us the possibility of focussing on the implementation aspects of the new policies. As you rightly point out, extensive consultations with the NGO community already took place in 2006 both on the draft *Communication* and the new *Commission Thematic Programme 'Investing in People'*, which includes EC funding for culture specific actions during the 2007-2013 period. The input from these consultations is of course used in the preparation of the new policy.

The question of resource allocation is always crucial, but I am happy to inform you that there is clear increase in the proposed EC funding of cultural programmes and projects compared to the previous years. Two new intra ACP programmes are starting this year, funded under the 9th EDF with a budget in excess of 14m euros (Cinema and Audiovisual Support Programme, Cultural Industries Support Programme). The Commission is also proposing a funding of 80m euros for cultural actions in developing countries between 2007 and 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard PETIT