

Proposal for a Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities

(2004/0066(COD))

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 157 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions ⁽³⁾,

Acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 157 of the Treaty stipulates that the Community and the Member States must ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Community's industry exist.
- (2) Article 151(4) of the Treaty stipulates that the Community must take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaty, in particular in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures.
- (3) The cinematographic industry in Europe has great potential for creating employment and contributing to economic growth. This refers not only to the production and showing of films, but also to the collection, cataloguing, preservation and restoration of cinematographic works. The conditions for the competitiveness of these industrial activities related to film heritage need to be improved, especially as regards better use of technological developments, such as digitisation
- (4) The Council Resolution of 26 June 2000 ⁽⁴⁾ on the conservation and enhancement of European cinema heritage calls on Member States to cooperate in the restoration and conservation of cinema heritage, including through recourse to digital technologies, to exchange good practice in this sector, to encourage progressive networking of European archival data and to consider the possible use of these collections for educational purposes.
- (5) The Commission Communication on certain legal aspects relating to cinematographic and other audiovisual works ⁽⁵⁾ examined the legal deposit of audiovisual works at national or regional level as one of the possible ways of conserving and safeguarding the European audiovisual heritage and launched a stocktaking exercise of the situation regarding the deposit of cinematographic works in the Member States, accession countries and EFTA countries.
- (6) At its meeting of 5 November 2001 ⁽⁶⁾, the Council (Cultural/Audiovisual Affairs) welcomed the content of the Commission Communication and the approach taken by the Commission.
- (7) In its Report on the Commission Communication on cinema of 7 June 2002 ⁽⁷⁾, the European Parliament also underlined the importance of safeguarding the cinematographic heritage.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁽²⁾ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁽³⁾ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 193, 11.7.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2001)534 final, 26.9.2001, OJ C 43/6, 16.2.2002.

⁽⁶⁾ 2381st Council meeting — Cultural/Audiovisual Affairs (PRES/01/377, 5.11.2001).

⁽⁷⁾ PE 312.517, not yet published in the Official Journal.

- (8) The Council Resolution of 24 November 2003 on the deposit of cinematographic works in the European Union ⁽⁸⁾ invited Member States to put in place an efficient system of deposit and preservation of the cinematographic works forming part of their audiovisual heritage in their national archives, film institutes or similar institutions, if such systems do not yet exist.
- (9) The European Convention for the protection of the Audiovisual Heritage ⁽⁹⁾ provides that each Party has to introduce the obligation to deposit moving image material forming part of its audiovisual heritage and having been produced or co-produced in the territory of the Party concerned.
- (10) All Member States already have systems in place for collecting and preserving cinematographic works forming part of their audiovisual heritage. Four-fifths of these systems are based on a legal or contractual obligation to deposit all films, or at least those films that have received public support.
- (11) 'Moving image material' means any set of moving images recorded by whatever means and on whatever medium, whether or not accompanied by sound, capable of conveying an impression of movement.
- (12) 'Cinematographic work' means moving image material of any length, in particular cinematographic works of fiction, cartoons and documentaries, which is intended to be shown in cinemas.
- (13) Cinematography is an art form contained on a fragile medium, which therefore requires positive action from the public authorities to ensure its preservation. Cinematographic works are an essential component of our cultural heritage and therefore merit full protection.
- (14) In addition to its cultural value, cinematographic works are a source of historical information about European society. They are a comprehensive witness to history of the richness of Europe's cultural identities and the diversity of its people. Cinematographic images are a crucial element for learning about the past and for civic reflection upon our civilisation.
- (15) In order to ensure that the European film heritage is passed down to future generations, it has to be systematically collected, catalogued, preserved and restored, while respecting copyright and related rights.
- (16) European film heritage should be made accessible for educational, academic, research and cultural purposes, without prejudice to copyright and related rights.
- (17) Transferring the possession of cinematographic works to archiving bodies does not imply transferring copyright and related rights to them.
- (18) Article 5(2)(c) of Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society ⁽¹⁰⁾ stipulates that Member States may provide for an exception or limitation in respect of specific acts of reproduction made by publicly accessible libraries or by archives which are not for direct or indirect economic or commercial advantage,

TAKE NOTE OF THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION:

- 1. To consider making it compulsory for the beneficiaries of EU funding to deposit a copy of European films that have obtained EU funding in at least one national archive.
- 2. To support cooperation between designated bodies.
- 3. To consider the funding of research projects in the fields of long-term preservation and restoration of films.

⁽⁸⁾ Council Press Release 1457/03, OJ C 295/5, 5.12.2003.

⁽⁹⁾ <http://conventions.coe.int>, Council of Europe, ETS No 183, open for signature on 8.11.2001.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 167 of 22.6.2001.

4. To promote European standardisation on film cataloguing, with the purpose of improving the interoperability of databases.
5. To facilitate the negotiation of a standard contract at European level between designated bodies and copyright holders regulating the conditions under which designated bodies can make deposited cinematographic works accessible to the public.
6. To monitor and assess the extent to which the measures set out in this Recommendation are working effectively, and to consider the need for further action,

HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT MEMBER STATES:

1. Adopt appropriate legislative or administrative measures to ensure that cinematographic works forming part of their national audiovisual heritage are systematically collected, catalogued, preserved, restored and made accessible for educational, academic, research and cultural purposes, while respecting copyright and related rights, if these measures do not yet exist.
2. Designate appropriate bodies, which could be national or regional archives, film institutes or similar institutions, to carry out the tasks described in point 1 with independence and professionalism, and make financial and technical resources available to them.
3. Encourage the designated bodies to specify, by contract with rightholders, the conditions under which deposited cinematographic works may be available to the public.

Collection

4. Undertake the systematic collection of cinematographic works forming part of their national audiovisual heritage through a legal or contractual obligation. When setting the conditions for the deposit, Member States have to ensure that:
 - (a) they cover at least those productions or co-productions that have received public funding at national or regional level;
 - (b) the deposited copies are of good quality, so as to facilitate preservation and reproducibility, with accompanying metadata in standardised form, as appropriate;
 - (c) deposit is done at the time when the film is made available to the public, and in any case not more than two years later.

Cataloguing and creation of databases

5. Adopt appropriate measures to promote the cataloguing and indexing of deposited cinematographic works, making use of European and international standards, as well as creating databases containing information about the films.
6. Promote the interoperability of databases and their availability to the public, for instance, through the internet.
7. Invite archiving bodies to give value to stocks by organising them in collections at EU level, for instance, by theme, author, period, etc.

Preservation

8. Introduce legislation or use other methods in accordance with national practices in order to ensure preservation of deposited cinematographic works. Preservation measures should include, in particular:
 - (a) the reproduction of films on new storage mediums;
 - (b) the preservation of equipment for showing cinematographic works on different mediums.

Restoration

9. Permit, within their legislation, the reproduction of deposited cinematographic works for the purpose of restoration.
10. Encourage plans for restoration of old films or films with high cultural or historical value.

Making deposited cinematographic works accessible for educational, academic, research and cultural purposes

11. Adopt all the necessary legislation and administrative measures to allow designated bodies to make deposited cinematographic works accessible for educational, academic, research and cultural purposes, while respecting copyright and related rights.

Professional training

12. Promote professional training in all fields related to film heritage.

Voluntary deposit

13. Consider a system of voluntary deposit of:
 - (a) ancillary and publicity material related to cinematographic works forming part of the national audiovisual heritage;
 - (b) cinematographic works forming part of national audiovisual heritages from other countries;
 - (c) moving image material other than cinematographic works;
 - (d) cinematographic works of the past.

Cooperation between designated bodies

14. Encourage, and support, designated bodies to exchange information and coordinate their activities at national and European levels, for example, with the aim of:
 - (a) ensuring the coherence of collecting methods and the interoperability of databases;
 - (b) producing releases, for example on DVDs, of archival material with subtitles in the maximum number of languages of the European Union, while respecting copyright and related rights;
 - (c) compiling a European audiovisual filmography;
 - (d) developing a common standard for electronic information exchange;
 - (e) producing common research and educational projects.

Follow-up to the Recommendation

15. Inform the Commission every two years of action taken in response to this Recommendation,

Done at Brussels, ...

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President
