

# Media Advisory

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30.08.2010

## A New Paradigm for Culture ?

**International Conference:** ["Culture and the policies of change"](#)

**Dates:** 6-7 September 2010

**Location:** Brussels, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), rue Belliard 99.

**Organisation:** Council of Europe, in co-operation with the [European Commission](#), the [European Economic and Social Committee \(EESC\)](#), [European Union National Institutes for Culture \(EUNIC\)](#), [Culture Action Europe](#), [The Budapest Observatory](#), [International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies \(IFACCA\)](#), the [European Cultural Foundation](#). The event is also supported by the [Communauté française de Belgique](#), the [Ministry of Culture of Slovenia](#), and the [Allianz Kulturstiftung](#).

**Description:** A new policy for culture ? While strategies and priorities are under review due to the current financial crisis and to a re-orientation of public interest, the state's role as substantial provider of culture is questioned. There is an urgent need to re-think current methods and practices, taking into account world-wide cultural market forces and shifts in global values. The Conference will take stock of the direct impact of significant cuts to cultural budgets and institutions in 2011 and beyond, exploring alternative governance models, new forms of partnerships and multistakeholder approaches to meet arising challenges. Mainstreaming culture and optimising diversity policies are further hot topics offered by this forum.

**Key-note speaker:** Jeremy Rifkin, Founder and President [Economic Trends Foundation](#), on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> (13h45 – 15h30).

**Target group:** The Conference is aimed at senior policy-makers, practitioners and researchers who operate at national, regional and local levels, and who are responsible for the content, management or implementation of cultural policies.

**Background:** The Council of Europe's [CultureWatchEurope Platform](#) (CWE) promotes culture as "the soul of democracy" by offering an innovative and evidence-based overview of culture, heritage and media developments in Europe. CultureWatchEurope adds value to the Organisation's existing information tools, programmes and methods by linking them and by inviting civil society to contribute. CultureWatchEurope is value based, responsive, and aware: devised to pinpoint developments, difficulties, and good practices so that cultural governance and policy making can be enhanced Europe-wide, from a human rights perspective. Key words in this mission are: transparency, access and participation, respect for identity and diversity, intercultural dialogue and cultural rights.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.