

# F oreword

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European culture is diverse and shares a common heritage. It speaks to every European, regardless of place of origin. This collective wealth helps non-Europeans to recognize European culture as a unique trademark.

Culture is a cornerstone of our society. As a professor I can openly say that knowledge - whether in science or humanities - has been my greatest passion. I enjoyed sharing it with younger generations; my activity in politics came only later in life. I grew up in a system where art and culture were censored, where history was falsified, and where politics had only one colour. Today we are fortunate to live in a world of many shades of different colours.

Culture helps us understand what is different in a multicultural society. Art helps us see each other the way we see ourselves. It helps us discover that there is far more factors that unite us than those that divide us. Nations have never lived in harmony simply by the force of political and military treaties. Today we are a reunited continent, not only politically and economically, but also culturally.

I am particularly happy to see the support given to the new journal by two of my colleagues from the European Parliament - Tadeusz Zwiefka, journalist by profession, and Doris Pack, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education. What is more, I am happy that the journal's creation has been supported by the European Commission funds through the ATHENA project, the network of cultural institutions.

*Uncommon Culture* began its life online, but now it appears also on paper. I wish you every success on this new endeavour. I wish a bright future to this newborn publication!