



**THE 26th JAPAN/EP INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE THIRD WORKING SESSION  
CO-CHAIRLED BY THE BOTH DEPUTY DELEGATION LEADERS  
(17TH MAY 2005)**

**THEME 3: EU-JAPAN COOPERATION**

**National Policies and bilateral cooperation concerning the protection of copyright, cultural diversity and cultural heritage, and the promotion of creation**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman,

First of all, I would like to say that **I am so glad to be here participating in this 26th Interparliamentary Conference between the European Union and Japan.**

I come from Spain, I am a member of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament, and I would like to talk about the cultural diversity and cultural heritage, as well as the promotion of creation in the European Union.

To start with, I would like to highlight the motto of the "*Treaty that establishes a Constitution for Europe*": "*United in the Diversity*", which symbolizes the importance that the cultures have in the European project and the wealth that this cultural and linguistic diversity represents for all the Europeans. Hence, the European Constitution establishes that "*the Union shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced*" (art. I-3.3).

In fact, the Treaty expresses that preservation and promotion of cultural diversity are among the founding principles of the European Union.

With regards to international cooperation, the Community is involved in cultural policies and actions which require it to strengthen these aspects within its borders and its relations with third countries and international organizations.

Cultural diversity has become one of the major issues of the international debate taking place among international and regional organizations since 1998. A number of bodies have examined this issue, such as the UNESCO -with the probable adoption in October 2005 of an international legal instrument on cultural diversity:

the Convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions-, or the United Nations and International Telecommunication Union, through the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Tunisia in 2005.

Such progressive affirmation of cultural diversity at international level is a contributing answer to growing concerns of civil society and governments regarding the preservation of cultural diversity as well as the promotion of living cultures and creativity capacity. In both dimensions, cultural diversity tends to integrate global strategies of sustainable development. Public authorities are increasingly sensitive to the need to develop intercultural dialogue with a view to foster peace, security and stability at global level.

The European Union and its Member States also defend the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity within the framework of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization in the field of cultural and audiovisual services. And in this direction, the adoption of the UNESCO Convention will be an important step towards a real international cooperation which protects and promotes the different cultural contents and artistic expressions in front of the globalization pressures and the international trade policy.

This Convention should also guarantee the media pluralism and recognize the fundamental role of the public.

Furthermore, the international community should take into consideration the double nature of the cultural services and products as economic goods and identity elements of the societies, and its regulation should consider this specificity.

Concerning the cultural heritage, in 1974 the European Parliament adopted an initial resolution which mentioned the need for Community action in the cultural sphere, particularly action to protect this cultural heritage (museums, collections, libraries and archives: archaeological, architectural, linguistic, gastronomic and so on). Since 1993, the Treaty establishing the European Community has provided a legal basis specifically for activities concerning its preservation and enhancement. So cultural heritage is widely recognised across Europe as a vehicle for cultural identity and an important factor in economic development, which is protected at both national and European levels

Furthermore, the European Union develops policies which supports the cultural industries of media, edition, art and music, that represent an important source of employment: nearly 7 million citizens work in the cultural field. So the European Union promotes and supports the creation by providing a favourable environment to develop these industries and to facilitate its adaptation to the competitive market, its access to digital technologies and to certain financial resources.

But in order to advance in this direction and reach competitiveness in the cultural European industries, specially in the cinematographic and audiovisual ones, the European Union must continue to increase its budget because we have not yet arrived as far as we should do.

And we should not only focus on the access and diffusion strategies of these industries, but also in the distribution and the promotion of cultural works, as well as on the formation of the professionals.

At this point I would like to emphasize the importance of the protection of the copyright or property rights linked to the works and the creators, as a measure of recognition of the creation role of the artists, editors and so on, and of the cultural products, not only as an economic duty

but as a cultural guarantee of development of the cultural field in our societies, without damage for the extension of the cultural dimension.

I would like to finish remarking the importance of the 2005 EU-Japan Year of People to People Exchanges and of the Aichi Expo opened near the Central Japanese city of Nagoya with 17 EU member States taking part, among them, my country, Spain, and my region, Catalonia. And encouraging intellectual and cultural exchanges between this country and the Members States of the European Union, in particular between institutes, universities and other educations centres, and between regional and local institutions, to promote mutual understanding, to tend bridges and to contribute to the enrichment of our relations.

Thank you very much,

Maria Badia I Cutchet