

**JOINT STATEMENT
OF THE MINISTERS OF CULTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

On Wednesday 7 January 2015, a terrorist attack on the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris killed 12 people, most of them journalists and artists working for the magazine.

Despite regular death threats, they had vowed to continue expressing their freedom to think and to create with humour and talent. They were murdered because they drew and published cartoons.

This unspeakable act was intended to silence them forever, to terminate the publication of the magazine and more broadly, to restrict the freedom to think, to speak and to create. These freedoms are core values of European democracy. They are universal democratic values.

In this time of profound sadness and grief, we, the ministers of culture of the European Union, condemn this senseless barbarity, which attempts to undermine our essential values in the most violent way.

We unanimously express our belief that artistic freedom and freedom of expression stand firm and unflinching at the heart of our common European values. France and her allies in the EU safeguard these values and promote them in the world. We affirm our determination to continue to do so in the future.

We, the ministers of culture of the European Union, do not accept terrorists' attempts to impose their own standards. Since time immemorial, the arts have been an inspiration for reflection giving rise to new ideas and fighting against intolerance and ignorance. It is the freedom of expression in a culturally diverse environment that brings these ideas into meaningful dialogue.

We, the ministers of culture of the European Union, stand in solidarity to defend the freedom of expression and vow to protect the rights of artists to create freely.

Dace **MELBĀRDE**



Minister for Culture
Holder of Rotating EU Council Presidency
Latvia

Fleur **PELLERIN**



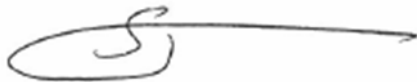
Minister for Culture and Communication
France

Josef **OSTERMAYER**



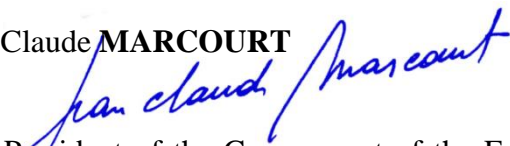
Federal Minister for Arts and Culture, Constitution and Media
Austria

Sven **GATZ**




Flemish Minister for Culture, Media, Youth and Brussels
Belgium

Jean-Claude **MARCOURT**



Vice-President of the Government of the French-speaking Community and Minister
for Higher Education, Research and Media
Belgium

Joëlle **MILQUET**



Vice-President of the Government of the French-speaking Community and Minister
for Education, Culture and Childhood
Belgium

Isabelle **WEYKMANS**



Vice-minister-president of the German-Speaking Community and minister of Culture,
Employment and Tourism
Belgium

Vezhdi **RASHIDOV**



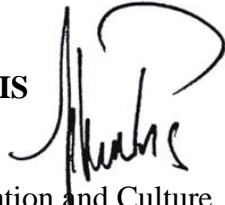
Minister for Culture
Bulgaria

Dr. Andrea **ZLATAR VIOLIĆ**



Minister of Culture
Croatia

Prof. Costas **KADIS**



Minister for Education and Culture
Cyprus

Daniel **HERMAN**



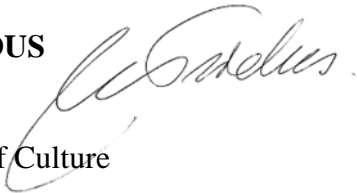
Minister for Culture
Czech Republic

Marianne **JELVED**



Minister for Culture
Denmark

Urve **TIIDUS**



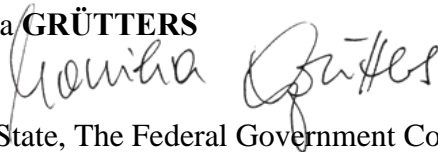
Minister of Culture
Estonia

Pia **VIITANEN**



Minister of Culture and Housing
Finland

Prof. Monika **GRÜTTERS**



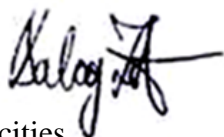
Minister of State, The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media
Germany

Konstantinos **TASOULAS**



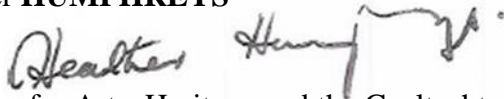
Minister of Culture and Sports
Hellenic Republic

Zoltán **BALOG**



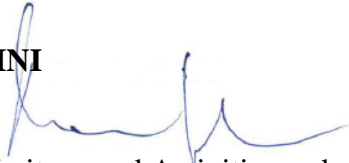
Minister of Human Capacities
Hungary

Heather **HUMPHREYS**



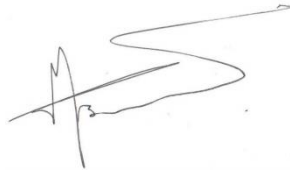
Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Ireland

Dario **FRANCESCHINI**



Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities and of Tourism
Italy

Šarūnas **BIRUTIS**



Minister for Culture
Lithuania

Maggy **NAGEL**




Minister for Culture
Luxembourg

Dr. Owen **BONNICI**




Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government
Malta

Dr. Jet **BUSSEMAKER**



Minister for Education, Culture and Science
The Netherlands

Sander **DEKKER**



State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science
The Netherlands

Prof. Małgorzata **OMILANOWSKA**



Minister of Culture and National Heritage
Poland

Jorge Barreto **XAVIER**



Secretary of State for Culture
Portugal

Ioan **VULPESCU**



Minister for Culture
Romania

Marek **MAĐARIČ**



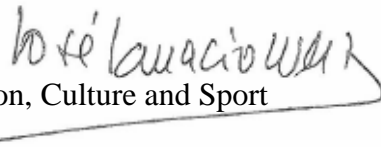
Minister for Culture
Slovak Republic

M.Sc. Julijana **BIZJAK MLAKAR**



Minister for Culture
Slovenia

José Ignacio **WERT ORTEGA**



Minister for Education, Culture and Sport
Spain

Alice **BAH KUHNKE**



Minister for Culture and Democracy
Sweden

Ed **VAIZEY**



Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy
United Kingdom