

II. Report

Statement of policy presented by the premier, Mirek Topolánek, assesses the importance of culture amongst other things:

„The government considers culture a determining part of our national identity. It is perceived as a spiritual base increasing the quality of life and contributing to raising the quality of respected values. The national culture and our support of its presentation within the context of international cooperation is a unique opportunity for promoting our original national values on the map of European and world culture, mainly in connection with the Czech presidency in the European Union Council.“

The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic (hereafter MK) following from the Plan of non-legislative governmental tasks has therefore submitted a document called „State cultural politics“, which presents a practical implementation programme of the thesis expressed in this policy statement.

The base of this programme is a formulation of the "vision of state cultural policy". The vision expresses an idea of what role culture should play in the society so that its potential is fully utilized and defines what exactly the role of the state is in this field. This vision creates an essential base for stating the objectives and ways of their realization (tasks and measures) in the framework of the national cultural policy, and also presents the Czech cultural policy within the common area of cultural policies of other EU member states that have similar visions.

The objective of the cultural policy is to present a basic strategic plan based on the economic, social and civic levels of the cultural sector and connected to the practical role of the state being the originator of rules and provider of support for utilization of cultural values created in both past and present.

Tasks and measures are the means to realize these objectives. They represent the sum of legislative and non-legislative tools that are classified in national cultural politics according to individual goals and presented along with a brief explanation and request for coordination and cooperation with other institutions of the public administration (on a vertical as well as horizontal level).

The document „State cultural politics“ is provided with a supplement that contains a summary of the activities of the MK and other public administrative bodies, as well as a summary of so far adopted conceptual documents within the region and a brief evaluation of their implementation.

A crucial significance for feasibility of the tasks, measures and implementation of the objectives of national cultural policy lies within the governmental performance of the obligations detailed in the statement of policy, namely „ increasing the share of the national budget given to support culture gradually up to 1 % of the state budget“.

An important prerequisite of objectives' implementation is to introduce a higher form of cooperation of the Ministry of Culture with other bodies. Therefore it was suggested to the relevant ministries cooperate in order to fulfil the concrete tasks/regulations. The national government was also asked to invite municipal and regional governments for cooperation.

The suggested tasks and measures necessary for their implementation do not have a negative impact on gender equality, and also no negative impacts on the environment or business sectors are expected.

This material was submitted for suggestion and comments according to governmental rules of procedure, most of the comments were met with approval; and many of them will be used for the implementation of the suggested tasks. The areas of potential conflict with the Ministry of Finance were negotiated and explained at the meeting on November 6, 2008, and the material was submitted with no contradictions.