

EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 12 April 2013

**EU Culture Programme - literary translations projects
(Skopje Book Fair)**

Speaking points
Ambassador Aivo Orav
Head of the EU Delegation

Dear Minister Ms. Kancheska-Milevska,

Dear Ms. Prentovska,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure that on the occasion of the 25th edition of the Book Fair, we are organising this event, having the chance to promote the benefits of the European Union Culture Programme. I am also honoured to be in a company of such prominent discussants and participants in the panel debate that later on will examine the prospects of the "European literature – today and tomorrow."

Learning that 163 titles have been translated with the support of the European Union makes me especially proud. Through literature we are all united by our cultural diversity.

Following on from this success we are now looking at establishing a prize for young translators.

The EU Culture Programme is powerful driver for development of individuals and institutions. It is recognized as a fundamental building block for human and institutional development and one of the strongest instruments for increasing opportunities offered to citizens here by the European Union.

The EU attaches great importance to Culture Programme. The next Culture Programme 2014-2020 – Creative Europe - will

therefore be aligned with the overall strategy launched by the European Agenda for Culture, and embedded in the overall vision of sustainable and inclusive growth outlined by the Europe 2020 strategy. The proposed budget for the period 2014-2020 amounts to 1.6 billion EUR for the cultural sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I do believe that many cultural operators from the country will continue to apply and successfully implement Culture-funded projects. I wish you all a lot of success in this sometimes very complex process.

Thank you very much for your attention.