We, the Ministers and Heads of delegations participating in the first Eastern Partnership Ministerial Conference on Culture, held on 28 June 2013, in Tbilisi, Georgia:

1. Recalling:

- the principles underpinning the Eastern Partnership, including a shared commitment to fundamental values, such as democracy, the rule of law, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- the vision of culture referred to in the Commission Communication on the Eastern Partnership, adopted on 3 December 2008 whereby the EU has specifically recognised the value of cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue as an integral part of all external policies and has underlined the importance of cultural cooperation in addressing political processes and challenges;

- the importance of further enhancement of co-operation and policy dialogue on culture reflected in the Joint Declaration of the 2nd Eastern Partnership Summit (Warsaw, 29-30 September 2011);

- the principles stated in the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 20 October 2005, including the link between culture and development, as well as the importance of maintaining, adopting and implementing policies for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions;

- the standards developed by the Council of Europe and enshrined in The European Cultural Convention and specific conventions.

2. Reaffirming:

- The role of culture in human and socio-economic development, as well as in political reforms;
3. Acknowledging:

- The essential role of the **Eastern Partnership Platform 4 “Contacts between People”** in providing a framework for a policy dialogue on culture between the **EU** and **Eastern Partners**;

- The results achieved through the series of seminars and meetings held in the context of the work programme of **Platform 4**, taking forward this dialogue on cultural policy;

- The important added value of the **Eastern Partnership Culture Programme**, both in terms of allowing for a strong participation of cultural operators from the region in cooperation projects as well as in providing capacity building to public institutions;

4. Welcoming:

- The opportunities opening up under the new Creative Europe Programme, and in particular the possibility for Eastern Partners to fully participate in the Culture and MEDIA strands of the programme, on an equal footing with EU Member States and candidate and potential candidate countries, provided a number of technical conditionalities are fulfilled;

5. Express our commitment:

- to pursue the reform and modernisation of our cultural policies and to fully implement the **UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions** of 20 October 2005;

- to include culture in our development agendas and to harness the potential of culture in smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;

- to foster inter-ministerial cooperation on cultural issues, in the spirit of acknowledging the transversal nature of culture strongly contributing to *e.g.* social integration, economic growth, education and intercultural dialogue;

- to develop cultural policies in close cooperation with civil society, and to this end encourage and strengthen dialogue structures;
to enhance a balanced, comprehensive and strategic approach to cultural and creative sectors, covering in particular architecture, archives and libraries, artistic crafts, audio-visual (including film, television, video games and multimedia), cultural heritage, design (including fashion design), festivals, music, performing and visual arts, publishing and radio;

6. **Therefore call on the EU:**

- to pursue its support for the modernization of cultural policies in the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular by ensuring a continuation of the capacity building component of the *Eastern Partnership Culture Programme*;

- to facilitate and, if necessary, to co-finance the participation of the *Eastern Partnership* countries in the *Creative Europe Programme* by ensuring the necessary information and communication about the requirements for participation;

- to look at ways of enhancing cultural cooperation in the *Eastern Partnership* framework.