PART D

EVALUATION OF CULTURAL MAINSTREAMING
Repositioning culture as a cross-cutting issue to be taken into consideration in EC policy-making is a demanding strategy, which forces the European institutions to reassess their policy approach, acquire new expertise and change long-established operating structures. The sectoral analysis presented in the previous chapters of this study has shown that the development of EC cultural-sensitive policies has not followed a pre-determined, well-defined policy integration model. It has rather built upon *ad hoc* actions, depending on the various circumstances of individual cases.

Bearing in mind that the cultural cross-sectional clause of Article 151(4) EC does not impose a clear legal obligation to adjust EC policies in the light of the cultural objectives of the EC Treaty, but simply requires that efforts be deployed, to find a balance between the various Community goals, the integration of cultural considerations in EC action has been treated as a matter within the discretion of European institutions. The leeway thus afforded to them translated into a weak institutional commitment to mainstream cultural concerns that has yielded disparate results. Chapter 7 evaluates the cultural mainstreaming performance of the Community, drawing on outcomes of the policy-linking process in the fields of internal market and competition. Chapter 8 concludes with final remarks on Article 151(4) EC, its impact on EC policy-making and its potential to deliver balanced EC policies that preserve and promote cultural diversity.