EU-US summit 2021 on 15 June 2021

To the attention of:
Charles Michel - President of the European Council and
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Joe Biden, President of the US

Call to support the cultural relations

As EU and US leaders will meet in June, more than 100 organisations from across Europe’s and America’s cultural and creative sectors are uniting their voices to call for attention to the EU-US cultural relations, of particular importance to recover from the Corona crisis.

The EU and the US are highly important export markets for culture. Cultural services accounted for 5,961.5 bln € of export to US in 2019 and for 2,575.1 of import in the EU1.

The Corona-crisis has hit both trade partners severely. Concerts, performances and events stood still for more than a year, with no travelling and touring in either direction. According to a study2 conducted by EY on the impact of the pandemic the music and performing arts sector in Europe were hit worst with 70% and 90% less turnover in 2020. It is expected that only towards the end of 2021 this will slowly resume, with severe consequences on the live events business between the US and the EU.

The cultural community needs a strong political signal which gives hope and prospect.

But the strongest obstacles to make this happen are the difficulties that artists, crew and cultural professionals encounter which relate to cumbersome and costly visa processing when travelling to the USA for the purpose of work and the great variety of conditions US artists face to obtain work permits in the different countries of the EU. Reducing the obstacles to visas and work permits is therefore an essential instrument to bring hope, future and a new start of cultural exchange between the two continents. Toward this ends, experts in the EU and US would be glad to jointly prepare recommendations, and we welcome the chance to provide you with these recommendations.

Whilst the US and EU can be proud of a thriving cultural exchange, we, the artist communities on both sides of the Atlantic call upon you for a solution-oriented approach as regards artist mobility. Artist mobility produces a backbone of additional trade (flights, hotels, catering, hire of local services, road haulage, local taxes, etcetera) and thus generate income for many other side industries.

Reducing the obstacles to visas and work permits is therefore an essential instrument to bring hope, future and a new start of cultural exchange between the two continents.

We thank you for your attention.

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1 Eurostat : international trade in services – personal, cultural and recreational services (year 2019)
2 EY Ernst&Young https://www.rebuilding-europe.eu/
On behalf of the following signatories:

1. 2Luck Concepts
2. 5000 LTD
3. A2IM - American Association of Independent Music
4. Aakash Odedra Company
5. AEAA
6. AEPO-ARTIS
7. AFEM - Association For Electronic Music
8. AK Foundation for Dance Inc.
9. Akram Khan Company
10. alba KULTUR - Office for Global Music
11. Arena Resilience Alliance
12. Arts Midwest
13. Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académie de Musique
14. Association of Commercial Television in Europe
15. Association of Performing Arts Professionals
16. BBK – Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler
17. Between the Seas: Mediterranean Performing Arts
18. CEC ArtsLink
19. Centre Européen de Musique
20. Circostrada Network
21. Culture Action Europe
22. Dance Managers Collective
23. Dance/USA
24. DE CONCERT!
25. Dutch Music Export
26. EDN - European Dancehouse Network
27. EJN - Europe Jazz Network
28. ELIA - globally connected European network for higher arts education

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3 108 signatories on 14 June midnight CET. Names and e-mail addresses can be obtained with the contacts of this letter.
| 29 | Elsie management |
| 30 | ENCATC |
| 31 | Erwin Maas - Artists' manager |
| 32 | ESNS Eurosonic Noorderslag |
| 33 | Europa Distribution - The European Network of Independent Film Publishers and Distributors |
| 34 | European Circus Association |
| 35 | European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (ECCD) |
| 36 | European Cultural Foundation |
| 37 | European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO) |
| 38 | European Festivals Association |
| 39 | European Games Developer Federation (EGDF) |
| 40 | European Music Council |
| 41 | European Music Exporters Exchange - EMEE |
| 42 | European Music Managers Alliance (EMMA) |
| 43 | European Orchestra Federation EOFed |
| 44 | European Publishers Council |
| 45 | European Theatre Convention |
| 46 | FACE Foundation |
| 47 | FEDEC - European federation of professional circus schools |
| 48 | FEDECRAIL |
| 49 | Federation for European Storytelling |
| 50 | Feld Entertainment, Inc. |
| 51 | female:pressure |
| 52 | FIM - International Federation of Musicians |
| 53 | Folk Alliance International |
| 54 | German Centre of the International Theatre Institute |
| 55 | gigmit |
| 56 | globalFEST |
| 57 | HowlRound Theatre Commons |
| 58 | IAO (International Artist Organisation) |
| 59 | ICMP - The International Confederation of Music Publishers |
60 IETM - International network for contemporary performing arts
61 IFPI representing the recording industry worldwide
62 IMPALA - Independent Music Companies Association
63 IMPF (Independent Music Publishers International Forum)
64 IN SITU - European Platform for Artistic Creation in Public Space
65 Innovation Network of European Showcases (INES)
66 International Music Council
67 International Music Managers Forum
68 Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) (German NC of International Association of Art IAA)
69 JM International
70 League of American Orchestras
71 Literature Across Frontiers
72 Live DMA - European network for live music venues, clubs and festivals
73 liveurope
74 Martin E. Segal Theatre Centre, The CUNY Graduate Center
75 Martinez Arts Consulting, ALC
76 MobiCulture
77 More Europe - external cultural relations
78 Musikhochschulen
79 NAMM - National Association of Music Merchants
80 NAPAMA
81 National Performance Network
82 New Music USA
83 New York City Center
84 National Independent Venue Association (NIVA)
85 On the Move
86 Opera Europa
87 OPERA America
88 Pearle*-Live Performance Europe
89 PEN America
PRODISS
Production Services Association
REMA - Early Music in Europe
Res Artis
Roberto Cimetta Fund
Rosie Kay Dance Company
Sistema Europe
Skye Blue Productions
SOS - Save Our Spectrum
Taklit
Tamizdat Inc
Theatre Without Borders
Theatre Communications Group
The Arts and Theatre Institute, Czech Republic
ENCC - The European Network of Cultural Centres
The Green Room
The Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica (SPAH)
Trans Europe Halles
Western Arts Alliance
Yourope - The European Festival Association

Contacts:

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