



POLICY STATEMENT

EU action towards a sustainable and fair situation of artists and cultural professionals

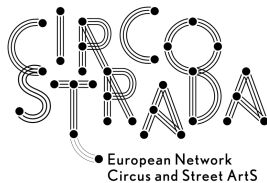
Reaction to the European Parliament's Report on the situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU

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Co-drafted with



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EU action towards a sustainable and fair situation of artists and cultural professionals

Culture and the arts play a tremendous role in every field of our life. Cultural and creative sectors are significant drivers of youth employment, which is essential in light of the post-pandemic recovery and relevant for the endeavours of the upcoming **European Year of Youth 2022**. Artistic creation and cultural participation contribute to the building of a strong civil society, stimulate critical thinking and enhance democracy - the priorities which are at the heart of the **EU Democracy Action Plan**. Moreover, culture is recognised by the European Commission as one of the 14 priority ecosystems for the recovery of Europe.

If we do not want this valuable and vibrant resource to be damaged and undermined by the ongoing unprecedented crisis, **we should urgently put in place concrete and effective policy tools to protect and support the people working in culture and the arts**. The contemporary solutions should focus on avoiding the further precarisation of artists and cultural professionals and prevent the talent drain in the CCSs. Moreover, an EU action in this field should consider the growing imbalances between Member States that hinder cross-border artistic collaboration, which is an essential element of a united, social and human Europe.

In this regard, we warmly welcome the CULT Committee's *"Report on the situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU"* voted on by the European Parliament on the 20th of October. The Report sets a long-awaited and comprehensive vision on addressing a wide range of the most persistent matters linked to the situation of artists and cultural professionals and puts forward a number of viable proposals, such as:

- remove the competition law obstacle to collective bargaining for self-employed, taking the broadest possible approach;
- adopt comprehensive guidelines regarding the access of cultural workers to social security, sickness insurance, unemployment insurance and pension schemes;
- guarantee fair, appropriate and proportionate remuneration of authors and performers for the online use of their works and performances;
- review the practice of buy-out clauses that deprive authors and performers of royalties and other remunerations.

We endorse the Report's ambitious and relevant approach and hope the European Commission and Member States will seize the momentum to make tangible progress in improving the socio-economic status of millions of European cultural and artistic professionals. In this regard, we would like to highlight the following areas of action:

European Semester

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion should integrate the CCSs in the European Semester, to create a framework for a consistent monitoring of the Member States' progress in regard to improving the socio-economic situation of artists and cultural professionals, as well as for a continuous review of the indicators in regard to public spending on culture.

Council Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026

Member States should include working conditions of artists and cultural professionals as one of the priority themes of the Council Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026. It is necessary to constructively use the learnings and outputs of the activities undertaken as part of the current Work Plan, such as the Voices of Culture Report, the European Commission study "The status and working conditions of artists and cultural and creative professionals" and the ongoing OMC process.

Renewed Agenda for Culture

The New Agenda for Culture 2018 remains relevant in its part of harnessing the core values of culture (social, economic, international). However, it does not reflect the consequences of the upheaval the pandemic brought to the cultural and creative ecosystem and the society at large. Today, the EU discourse on culture must shift from the strong focus on possible spill-overs culture can create for society and economy towards designing viable strategies for making the cultural and creative ecosystem itself more sustainable, fair and inclusive.

EU Action Plan on Artistic Freedom

DG Education and Culture should design an EU action plan for protecting artistic freedom, in the framework of the EU Democracy Action Plan. As COVID-19 times have reduced artistic production and presentation, the capability of the artistic communities across the whole world to stimulate and feed critical reflection and socio-political engagements and debates have been drastically reduced. On top of that, in some of the Member States, the most critical and independent artistic voices have been deprived of emergency support and excluded from the long-term recovery plans. Therefore, the freedom of artistic expression must be high on the EU's agenda.

Culture and the arts play a tremendous role in every field of our life. If we do not want to see this valuable resource damaged and undermined by the ongoing unprecedented crisis, we should urgently put in place concrete and effective policy tools to protect and support people working in culture and the arts.

IETM – International network for contemporary performing arts is one of the oldest and largest international cultural networks, representing the voice of over 500 performing arts organisations and individual professionals working in the contemporary performing arts worldwide. Their mission is to advocate the value of the arts and culture and empower performing arts professionals through access to international connections, knowledge and a dynamic forum for exchange. They also work to stimulate the quality, development and context of the contemporary performing arts, in all their diversity.

EAEA - European Arts and Entertainment Alliance is a Sectoral Trade Union Federation for the Media, Arts and Entertainment sector and a member of the ETUC. It brings together EuroFIA (the European group of the International Federation of Actors), Euro MEI (the European group of UNI-MEI the Global Union for Media and Entertainment) and Euro-FIM the European group of the International Federation of Musicians (FIM). Together they represent the hundreds of thousands of musicians, performers and technicians active in the sector across the EU. They represent these workers in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees for Live Performance and Audiovisual.

For more than 15 years, **Circostrada** has been working to develop and empower the fields of circus and street arts in Europe and beyond. It supports professionals and cultural stakeholders at large by boosting professional exchanges, collecting data, fostering training, knowledge sharing and promoting innovation in both sectors. With more than 135 members from over 35 countries, Circostrada acts as a bridge between all field players and EU policy makers, relaying their needs and advocating for greater means and more structured cultural policies. Circostrada is coordinated by ARTCENA – French National Centre for Circus Arts, Street Arts and Theatre, and is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union and the French Ministry of Culture.

EDN - European Dancehouse Network, formed in 2004, is an association of more than 36 dance houses connecting across Europe and beyond, with a shared ambition: strengthening professional practice, developing audiences and enhancing public engagement and progressing the network. In pursuit of this mission EDN's purpose is to champion, strengthen and communicate the dance house model as providing the optimum conditions and most effective means necessary for the structural development of dance as a contemporary art form, at all levels of engagement. EDN is the dance house network of Europe, where each member subscribes to cooperating, sharing resources, capacity building and intelligence gathering. Confronted with the challenges of the world today we stay for connectedness, identity and empathy building, resilience and the vital impact of the performing arts in society.

EFA - the European Festivals Association is a community dedicated to the arts, the artists and the audiences. EFA's main role in the permanently developing world of digitisation and globalisation is to connect festival makers so to inform, inspire and enrich the festival landscape. In this perspective, EFA is a festivals' service, knowledge and training provider; the oldest cultural network of European festivals! It was established to bridge the distance between organisations and all kinds of stakeholders and to create connections internationally. All this in function of the enrichment of a festival's own artistic offer and its organisational opportunities. EFA guides the discourse on the value of arts festivals. A sector that is so unique and that shares a myriad of concerns on intellectual, artistic, material and organisational level deserves a strong umbrella organisation that supports local initiatives and gives arts festivals a unified voice.

TEH - Trans Europe Halles is the European network of grassroots cultural centres. It has been at the forefront of repurposing abandoned buildings for arts, culture and activism since 1983. TEH members convert abandoned buildings across Europe into vibrant centres for arts and culture. They transform communities, neighbourhoods and cities. TEH is one of the oldest and most dynamic cultural networks in Europe. Based in Sweden, and currently counts 135 members in 39 different countries across Europe.

EAIPA – the European Association of Independent Performing Arts was founded in 2018 as the umbrella organisation for associations and interest groups from all over Europe representing the independent performing arts internationally and at the European level. EAIPA operates at a B2B level and its members, in turn, represent the actors from the professional independent performing arts field on the respective national levels. The designation ‘independent performing arts community’ comprises all professional freelance theatre-makers, artistic ensembles, and independent institutions and structures working in the genres of dance, theatre, circus, performance, music, performing arts for children, and youth theatre as well as overall interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary artistic work. Currently, 17 members from 15 different countries are part of the organisation.