



To
The Council of Ministers
The European Parliament
The Commission of the European Union
The Committee of the Regions

The Hague/Bonn, October/November 2004

Recommendations to the Culture 2007 proposal

Dear Madams and Sirs,

The EMC, a European network of more than 30 European music organisations and 30 national music councils representing through its member organisations more than 30 Million professional and amateur musicians, has studied the draft proposal for the new EU programme for culture prepared by the European Commission. After intensive reflections and consultations with the EMC membership and other experts from the music sector, the EMC Board has drafted the attached document, which contains some further recommendations towards the development of the new cultural programme "Culture 2007".

The attached document has been approved by the General Assembly of the membership of the EMC on 24 October 2004 (list of attendees s. enclosure).

The document also takes into account opinions formulated by other experts in the European cultural sector:

- the recommendations by the conference "Sharing Cultures", presented to the informal meeting of the ministers of Culture in Rotterdam on 23 July 2004
- the discussions during the conference "Artist on the Move", organised by SICA – Service Centre for International Cultural Activities in the Hague, October 2004
- the recommendations proposed by EFAH – European Forum for the Arts and Heritage, approved by the EFAH membership during their General Assembly on 30 October 2004 in Lille, France
- the recommendations on integrating educational activities into the cultural programmes, drafted by the EFMET project and presented to the EU Commission on 13 October 2004

The EMC greatly welcomes the fact that the European Commission has developed a new EU programme for culture. The intention to make the application procedure less complex and more transparent is highly appreciated, as well as the fact that operational support to European organisations active in the field of cultural networks is included. Nevertheless, we are concerned that the proposed implementation of the programme will not successfully achieve its goals. Therefore we hope that the attached list of recommendations will be taken into consideration when finalising the proposal for the new cultural programme Culture 2007.

We would like to thank you very much in advance for your attention and are of course at your disposal for any further questions.

Sincerely yours,

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EMC recommendations concerning the proposal for the “Culture 2007” programme

➤ Introduction

“...music is a fundamental part of the cultures and history of our countries and constitutes one of the most important and omnipresent modes of individual and collective artistic expression in our everyday lives...”

(“The role of music in Europe –conclusions” (12407/97), adopted by the Council of Ministers in Brussels on November 24, 1997)

Music has played an important part in society for centuries and still does so. Music covers a wide range of genres and involves millions of persons in Europe, both as amateurs and professionals. Although Music is seen by some as a commercial product, it is the believe of the EMC and its members that Music is principally a cultural phenomenon with a value on its own, which cannot survive without support and which is an important element of European cultural identity and of cultural diversity in Europe.

One of the objectives of the EMC is to voice the interest of the music sector in relation to the European institutions. The EMC’s membership represents organisations active in the various fields within the music sector, such as creation, education, training, performance, promotion and dissemination.

➤ Concerns in respect of the draft for Culture 2007

1. The foreseen budget is far too limited for the proposed activities.
2. The definition of the priority “mobility of artists and of works of art” could have a negative effect on cultural diversity, when the support to “flagship project” in the European cultural scene would be the only purpose of this priority.
3. Although we are not in favour of sectorial priorities, it is essential that the needs and characteristics of the various sectors are understood by the experts that will select the project proposals.
4. Projects including educational activities should become an integral part of the cultural programme .
5. The involvement of youth and amateur music organisations, which are crucial for the cultural diversity and the access to music activities for citizens, should be taken into account. The financial obligations for cooperation projects are too strong for most of the operators from these sectors.

➤ Recommendations

1. The budget for "Culture 2007" The EMC highly appreciates the fact that the total budget is raised for the period from 2007 – 2012 in comparison to the Culture 2000 programme.

However, in our opinion the increase is not sufficient. The foreseen amount is too low to guarantee cultural diversity and to develop a common European identity among all member states and future member states.

Following the recommendations that the conference "Sharing Culture" forwarded to the informal meeting of Ministers of Culture, we suggest to increase the budget to 0,70 Euro per year per European Citizen.

2. No thematic priorities but sectorial expertise The EMC supports the proposal in which there will no longer be annual thematic priorities. Nevertheless, this should not mean that the special characteristics and needs of the various sectors are overlooked. It is therefore crucial that sufficient sectorial knowledge is available in the further development of the programme and at the project selection stage. For example, if mobility is going to be one of the priorities of the programme, the specific needs of the relevant sectors will have to be taken into account.

Experts from the specific cultural fields must be involved in the further development of the programme and the selection of project proposals from the respective field.

3. Operational grants for European organisations active in the field of culture

The support to **European organisations active in the field of culture** is highly appreciated. The selection criteria should be developed with sectorial expertise and aim at maximum transparency. It is also important to give the organisations the chance to plan their long-term strategies and work plans.

Criteria for the selection of these operational grants and funding on a multi-annual bases is an essential condition for such operational grants.

4. Education and Culture

We are in favour of a greater synergy between culture and education.

Recently, recommendations have been drafted in the frame of the EU-funded project *EFMET – European Forum for Music Education and Training* that refer to the integration of cultural activities into the cultural programme. ***We would like to stress the importance of the recommendations on a greater synergy between education and culture formulated in the frame of the EFMET project.***

5. Transparent application procedure – access also for smaller organisations / projects

We support the proposal in its aim to make the application procedures less complex and more transparent.

However, we find the minimum amount of 50.000 Euro too high, as opportunities for small grass-root level activities will be reduced.

We therefore suggest to develop a system in which smaller amounts of funding can be distributed through decentralised sectorial support mechanisms.

The minimum financial contribution of the co-organisers should either not be fixed or smaller grants should be distributed through decentralised sectorial support mechanisms.