

**Public Hearing "Culture 2000: lessons from the implementation of the programme",
30th May 2006, 9-12.30, EU Parliament, Committee on Culture and Education**

Contribution European Music Council, Bonn, May 2006

- We very much appreciate that experts from the cultural field are involved in the development of the new programme for the support of culture of the EU Commission. This approach should be kept and intensified in order to regularly update programme procedures according to the experiences of the field. Not only experts in (general) cultural policy should be consulted but also practitioners from the various sectors within the field of culture.
- Clear criteria and transparency concerning the selection of grant applications as well as feedback in case of a negative decision are needed in order to prepare substantial applications.
- The selection of grant applications should be executed by experts of the field of the arts in which the application is made (music, drama, dance, fine arts, etc.) in order to respect the intensive preparation of the applicant and in order to guarantee qualified judgements.
- The minimum financial contribution of the co-organisers should not be fixed. Instead a total sum to be contributed by all partners and/or third parties together could be defined, in order to give small partners with interesting activities the possibility to participate as "coorganiser" in a project.
- Also (financially) smaller projects should be eligible for financial support through the EU Commission and the percentage of the maximum financial support should be higher, especially for those smaller projects (e.g. 50.000 Euro total project budget, including 75% funding from the EU Commission and a total financial contribution of 25% by coorganisers or third parties together).
In the field of culture, many small projects exist on grass root level that provide European added value and that highly contribute to cultural diversity in Europe.
- More transparency concerning the EU programmes for culture and education is needed for projects combining cultural and educational activities and projects partners from these two fields. In the past there has been confusion whether to apply for a grant from the cultural programmes or from the educational programmes (c. recommendations formulated by the EMC in the frame of the EFMET – project).

Concerning operational costs for cultural operators:

- The period of eligibility should be defined according to the capacity of the Executive Agency for Culture and Education to deal with the applications. It is not bearable for cultural organisations to only learn about their financial capacities for the respective period, if it is already half expired. If the definite contracts cannot be sent out before June (keeping the application deadline end of October of the preceding year) the period of eligibility should start between the July and September.
- To guarantee substantial planning, efficient working conditions and professional results, multi-annual agreements are necessary for the support of cultural operators.

Appropriate financial equipment is needed for the support of culture to guarantee cultural diversity in Europe and in order to strengthen the European identity of the citizens.