

Small Savings – Big Damage

EMC opposes proposed drastic cuts to AgoraEU

The European Music Council strongly urges the Member States and the Irish Council Presidency to **reverse the proposed cuts and calls for a strong budget of AgoraEU.**

AgoraEU is aimed at a broad spectrum of cultural and democratic activities. It addresses both an enormous societal value as well as economic impact. A cut of 30% to the budget of AgoraEU – one of the already smallest EU funding programmes – will do little to reduce the overall EU budget but have an extremely negative impact on the sectors that AgoraEU addresses and could severely damage Europe's cultural life that is a strong vehicle for European values.

This drastic cut of 30% to AgoraEU would reduce its share of the overall Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to only 0.33%, a disproportionate damage to the cultural and creative sectors, media and civil society!

Instead, EU Member States should use the opportunity to propose a strong AgoraEU programme strengthening and uplifting sectors that provide enormous value to people – for individuals, communities and societies overall. It is about safeguarding artistic and media freedom, strengthening cultural diversity, boosting the competitiveness of the European culture and creative sectors and ensuring the active participation in cultural activities of people living in the EU. All these are crucial elements of the democratic infrastructure in the EU, its member states and beyond.

Especially at a time, when the cultural and creative sectors are under enormous pressure, they need the support through AgoraEU for cross-border collaboration and exchange to tackle the adversities of today and the future. For the music sector this means that specific topics, among others AI, market concentration, streaming, overall working conditions, green transition, freedom of artistic expression, have to be met through dedicated and specific support structures.

It is therefore crucial to aim towards the budget proposal by the European Parliament of **10 billion Euro for AgoraEU** or at the very least secure a budget of min. 8.6 billion Euro for AgoraEU as proposed by the European Commission.

The EMC urges EU Member States to reflect AgoraEU's importance for culture, democracy, European societies and European competitiveness by providing it with a strong budget fit for the future!

Instead of small savings and big damage – we urge you to secure big opportunities with strong funding!

For further information contact the European Music Council:

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About the European Music Council

The European Music Council (EMC) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of all genres and types of music in Europe. It advocates access to music for all and for freedom of musical expression across Europe. As part of the International Music Council (IMC), the EMC strategies and actions are based on the IMC's Five Music Rights. The EMC network comprises music organisations involved in the fields of music education, creation, performance, participation, production and heritage. As a membership organisation, it provides real value to its members through the analysis of policy developments and the formulation of policy statements, capacity building and knowledge exchange as well as networking opportunities. Currently, the EMC membership comprises 78 music organisations from 28 European countries.