

Report on Culture Sector Platforms

First meetings of all three Culture Sector Platforms took place from 4-6 June 2008 in Brussel

In March the European Commission has published a "Call for expression of interest" to participate in the culture sector platforms. The platforms were installed as a first step to implement the European agenda for culture and form part of the overall communication strategy of the agenda. The aim of the platforms is to strengthen the voice of the culture sector and to enhance the structured dialogue between the culture sector and the political field (EU institutions and member states). Parallel to the dialogue within the culture sector the member states communicate through the Open Method of Coordination.

The European Commission has installed a website with FAQ concerning the platforms: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/doc1238_en.htm

From 4 to 6 June the EU Commission invited selected organisation to participate in the first meeting of the platforms. The European Music Council attended all three meetings.

The three platforms are:

- Rainbow Platform (already installed in 2006 by EFAH and ECF)
- Access to Culture
- Potential of Creative Industries

Aims of the Platforms

(as formulated by the EU Commission in the "Call for expression of interest")

- Complement existing consultation processes (such as online consultations, public hearings etc.) or specific sectoral dialogues carried out on specific EC policy or regulatory initiatives;
- Encourage the various components of the cultural sector to work in a more trans-sectoral way and to better structure and organise itself at EU level;
- Help the cultural sector to formulate recommendations with a view to contributing to the development of a political Agenda for Culture in Europe;
- Provide opportunities for these recommendations to be regularly presented to the European Commission and the Members States in the frame of the Cultural Forum.

Rainbow Platform – 4 June 2008

Being already in place since 2006, the Rainbow Platform served as inspiration to create the other two platforms. The Rainbow Platform is an initiative by the European Culture Foundation (ECF) and by Culture Action Europe (former: European Forum for the Arts and Heritage, EFAH). The Rainbow Platform was installed to prepare and implement the 2008 "European Year of Intercultural Dialogue".

In the course of the existence of the platform the first Rainbow Paper on Intercultural Dialogue was developed and presented at the opening of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

At the meeting on 4 June the Rainbow Paper II was discussed and practical workshops dealt with the text of the paper. General suggestions were to be more concrete and to sharpen the text. A report on the meeting is available [here](#).

Access to Culture – 5 June 2008

This platform gathered representatives from a wide range of the culture sector (e.g. museum, music, theatre, writers, architects, publishers, urban culture, multilingualism, etc). As "Access to Culture" is a very broad field different aspects of "access" will be covered at the platform therefore three working groups have been installed:

- Creativity and Culture (including creation and production), leader: International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM)
- People and Culture (including participation and audience), leader: European Festival Association
- Education and Culture, leader: Association of European Open Air Museums

One of the main aims of the first meeting of the platforms, as envisaged by the EU Commission, was to define work areas as well as a governing body.

To find a governing body for such a platform within one day has been a very challenging task taking into consideration that besides from a short introduction round, not all participants were familiar with each other. The governing body of the platform will consist of a chairperson, a steering committee and a secretariat. It was decided to look for a chair who is as neutral as possible, Mercedes Giovinazzo from Barcelona based Interarts Foundation accepted to act as interim chairperson. The steering committee will be composed of the leaders of the working groups together with Culture Action Europe. The secretariat will be hosted by the European Festival Association (an EMC member) as part of the "European House for Culture" project.

Potential of Creative Industries – 6 June 2008

This platform gathered mainly representatives from the culture industries sector (e.g. record labels, collecting societies, publishers, architects, writers, composers, screenwriters, theatres, etc.).

Likewise the "Access to Culture" platform installed working groups, the following issues will be discussed:

- Regulatory environment (led by EFCA, European Film Companies' Alliance)
- Support for the development of SMEs' (small and medium enterprises) (led by IMPALA, Independent Music Companies' Association)
- Exchange and export in a globalised world (led by EFAP, European Forum for Architectural Policies)
- Circulation of artists and cultural products and the European dimension (led by EMO, European Music Office)
- Interface of artistic creation and the cultural industries (led by Culture Action Europe, with support from the EMC, European Music Council)

The same governing structure will be applied to this platform. The secretariat will be hosted by the European Music Office (EMO), the steering group will be composed by the working group leaders. After long discussions (where different interest of the platform participants became obvious) it was agreed that Yvette Masson from the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) will be chairing the platform.

Outlook

A next official meeting for the platforms is envisaged for the first half of 2009, the next culture forum where all operators from the culture field will be invited shall take place in autumn 2009 in the frame of the Swedish EU Presidency. At this point first results of the work of the platforms shall be presented.

The platforms shall take an active role in formulating recommendations for the future culture programme where negotiations will start in 2010.

The EMC will start working actively in the platforms and we would like to know about the interest of our members in the platforms. Please send us your feedback, suggestions and input.

For more information, please contact the EMC secretariat.

With kind regards
Your EMC Team

Haus der Kultur
Weberstraße 59 a
D-53113 Bonn
Tel + 49. 228. 96 69 96-64
Fax + 49. 228. 96 69 96-65
info@emc-imc.org
www.emc-imc.org