

For immediate release

European Music Council Press Release

European Forum on Music and EMC Annual Meeting

15 – 18 April 2010, Vienna Austria

Musical Diversity - Looking back, Looking forward

The European Forum on Music held in cooperation by the European Music Council (EMC), the Austrian Music Council and the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, was an event that will surely linger in the participants' minds for a long time to come. The plume of volcanic ash that made its way across Europe, was closing most of the continent's airspace and hampering travel plans, but most people made it to Vienna, and the conference's discussions, connections, ideas and conclusions will be remembered for much longer. The theme of the forum, itself entitled 'Musical Diversity: Looking back, Looking forward', encouraged the delegates, who came from nearly 30 countries, to reflect on how musical diversity had developed over the past decade and how they and their organisations could help shape the future.

Discussions took place regarding the roles that education, the digital environment, the EU 2020 Strategy, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the role that cities have in promoting musical diversity. Conclusions and recommendations that resulted from these discussions include the idea that the concept of 'culture impact assessment' should be introduced, that regulators should have to prove that their measures have positive effects, that EMC members should focus on the field of music education in their activities, that the EMC should play a key role in redefining the UNESCO Roadmap for Arts Education and that advocacy work be governmentally holistic, going beyond the ministries of culture and education

In their extremely observant and concise summaries of the conference, Sonja Greiner (Europa Cantat) and Peter Rantasa (International Music Council) urged delegates to really take time to think about what they had heard over the past couple of days, and ensure that the recommendations be acted upon in their respective countries. With many people now stranded in Vienna, it was the perfect time to take that time to think and reflect.

Alongside the forum, elections for the EMC Board 2010–2012 were held. The new board consists of Timo Klemettinen (Finland), Christian Höppner (Germany), Stef Coninx (Belgium), Erling Aksdal (Norway), Helena Maffli-Nissinen (Switzerland/Finland), Frank Stahmer (Austria) and Kaie Tanner (Estonia), as well as a co-opted Working Group Youth member of Claire Goddard (UK/Germany)

For more information on the European Forum on Music and other EMC activities please visit www.emc-imc.org

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