

To  
All EMC members

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Board Decision RE: Russian Musical Union

Bonn, 17.05.2022

Dear Members of the EMC,

We hope you are keeping well.

As expressed in our statement of 3 March, The EMC stands in solidarity with Ukraine. The EMC also stands in solidarity with all countries in Eastern Europe that are currently suffering to a great extent from the invasion in Ukraine, helping refugees from Ukraine and fearing direct effects from this terrible war.

While the EMC does not want to hold any of its members hostage for the political decisions of its governments, this extraordinary situation demands further reflection on how to deal with members in Russia.

The EMC has members in many Eastern European countries which feel a direct threat to their own national sovereignty caused by this war, several of which have expressed their concerns and wish for the membership of The Russian Music Council to be reviewed.

Therefore, the EMC Board has employed a disciplined decision-making process that goes beyond what typically may have been used, given these unprecedented times. To that end, EMC Board members have met several times and decided to freeze the membership of the Russian Musical Union, as a reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Such a “freeze” is a measure that is not foreseen in the EMC statutes. The RMU is only an indirect members of the EMC and any official membership decision will have to be taken at the level of the IMC.

The EMC Board has formulated the following measures for the duration of the freeze:

EMC will not hold any events/ conference in Russia

- RMU will not be able to participate directly in EMC events (e.g. Annual Meeting, membership lounges, etc.)
- RMU will not be listed as member on the EMC website
- RMU will continue to receive EMC membership news
- Informal communication channels between EMC/IMC and RMU will continue to be open

During the EMC Board discussions on this matter, it came to an agreement that as a membership organisation, this decision should not be one solely taken by the board but one that should involve our full membership.

In particular, the voting rights of RMU shall be discussed upon by the EMC membership as this would be a statutory decision and the freezing is an “out-of-the statutes” solution. Such a statutory decision could be taken as an extraordinary measure at the Annual Meeting of members, after thorough debate during the EMC Lab.

EMC members could possibly discuss the following options:

- A) Ask EMC Board to lift the freezing and grant the RMU full membership again
- B) Agree with EMC Board on the freezing of the membership as it is (i.e. including the possibly for RMU to exercise voting rights)
- C) Agree with EMC Board on the freezing of the membership and in addition removing the voting rights

To discuss these or further options, we will place this discussion as part of the agenda during our event in Brussels on 10 and 11 June.

If you have any further questions regarding the contents of this email, please do not hesitate to contact our office in Bonn on [info@emc-imc.org](mailto:info@emc-imc.org).

Yours sincerely,



Victoria Liedbergius, President  
on behalf of the EMC Board