

## EMC statement on the EU Commission's Creative Europe programme proposal

The European Music Council (EMC), regional group of the International Music Council (IMC), is the umbrella organisation for musical life in Europe. It is a platform for National Music Councils, European networks and organisations involved in various fields of music from many European countries; the 80 members have their seat in 29 European countries.

The European Music Council contributes to a better mutual understanding among peoples and their different cultures and to the right for all musical cultures to coexist. It acknowledges the significant role that music and culture play for the political and societal development of a peaceful and integrative Europe. Therefore it advocates on local, national and European level for an appropriate framework for music, music professionals and access to music. The EMC provides exceptional value to its membership by building knowledge, creating networking opportunities, supporting and enhancing the visibility of initiatives that help sustain people's participation in music and cultural life.

The EMC is a member of Culture Action Europe<sup>1</sup> and supports the we are more campaign<sup>2</sup>.

### The EU needs a strong programme for culture

The EMC welcomes that in its drafts for the new programmes which will come into effect as of 2014 the EU Commission has clearly taken the vital need for support of the culture sector and the cultural and creative industries into consideration.

A strong EU programme, which promotes artistic and cultural exchange in Europe, is at a time of the Euro-Crisis and increasing Euro-scepticism an important tool for the positive strengthening of the European integration process, European solidarity and the public perception of Europe.

Therefore, the EMC calls upon the Members of the European Parliament and national governments to:

### Support the proposed overall budget

We welcome the proposed increased budget and call upon the EU Member States as well as Members of the European Parliament to support the overall budget for the 'Creative Europe' programme as proposed by the EU Commission.

### Guarantee cultural criteria as a basis for evaluation

We particularly welcome Creative Europe's goal of protecting and promoting Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity, and recognise the potential of the cultural and creative sector for economic growth and employment. Alongside the 'strengthening of competitiveness' it is important that the criteria for support and the evaluation mechanisms for the programme should firstly be justified along cultural lines, and not purely economic and those relating to labour market policy. The 'UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions' promotes the dual character of cultural products, respecting both their cultural and the economic value. The EU, as signatory party of the Convention and through its 'EU Agenda for Culture' (2007), has the responsibility to actively pursue the promotion of cultural diversity in all its programmes.

### Acknowledge the specifics of the cultural sector and the creative industries

The all-encompassing 'Creative Europe' umbrella must show a clear division of the programme proposal into three areas of action in order to accommodate the specifics of each area.

The Culture and MEDIA areas of action should be dealt with separately, particularly the allocated budget lines. This division should also be reflected in the responsibilities at EU member states' level as well as

<sup>1</sup> [www.cultureactioneurope.org](http://www.cultureactioneurope.org)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.wearemore.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Creative-Europe-statement\\_EN.pdf](http://www.wearemore.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Creative-Europe-statement_EN.pdf)

the working level of the EU: The programme committee for 'Creative Europe' should accommodate for this.

It should be made clear which parties are eligible to submit applications to which area of action. In the 'culture' area of action, only not-for-profit projects should be supported.

### **Continue the support for European Networks**

We regret the abolition of operating grants for European networks, however welcome that support for European networks is planned within the culture area of action. European networks are of great significance for the further development of cultural life and social cohesion throughout Europe and beyond: providing for their specific needs must therefore be a priority for the Creative Europe programme. The planned project funding must allow networks to receive funding which adequately covers operating, personnel and statutory meeting costs and does not require them to have project partners for these core actions. Networks must also be permitted to coordinate cooperation projects, as long as the double financing rules are respected.

### **The following points need further clarification:**

#### **Financial Facility**

The financial facility for the culture and creative sectors is welcomed as particularly small and medium sized enterprises in the cultural and creative sector regularly face difficulties when applying for loans. However, at this time it is not yet clear how this will be implemented and further clarification is needed.

#### **Cooperation with Third Countries**

The EMC welcomes the suggested opening of the Creative Europe programme to the EU Neighbourhood countries. However, it remains unclear to what extent Creative Europe will support cooperation with Third Countries beyond EU Neighbourhood countries. Further clarification is needed to what extent activities can take place in Third Countries and to what extent cultural actors from Third Countries will be allowed to become partners.

#### **Text of the Communication**

Upon analysis of the programme proposal in the Communication<sup>3</sup> of the European Commission as well as in the proposal for a regulation<sup>4</sup> as a legal basis for the programme it is evident that these build upon the President of the European Commission Barroso's Europe 2020 strategy<sup>5</sup>. The text of the framework programme is currently still seen as vague and offers a lot of room for interpretation, so that some questions in the text cannot be answered and require further clarification. We ask the communication text to go into more detail, in particular on the first overall goal – ensuring and supporting the cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/documents/communication\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/documents/communication_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/documents/proposal-regulation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/documents/proposal-regulation_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/documents/president-barroso-on-europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/documents/president-barroso-on-europe2020/index_en.htm)