

11 December 2024

Welcome letter and request for an expert group for music

Dear Commissioner Micallef,

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your appointment as European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport.

We are writing as 60 organisations from across the music sector to share with you our most important issues for the music sector in the years to come. Our core values are based on the [Five Music Rights](#) proclaimed by the International Music Council (IMC) which highlight the experience of music and music-making as a vital part of the everyday life of all people.

The European music sector enriches the lives of Europeans through its diverse musical landscape. “Music is one of the pillars of European culture. It has an intrinsic value, enriching and inspiring those who engage in it. Music is an art form and, as such, has contributed and continues to contribute immensely to Europe’s legacy, building a rich heritage that preserves and celebrates the diversity of our continent’s cultural identities. Music can also serve as a tool that promotes individual development and brings change to many levels of society: it is a formidable unifier of people, a natural vehicle for social engagement and inclusion and a powerful agent for democratic values. Finally, music is involved in a variety of products that contribute to international trade, economic growth and job creation” (European Agenda for Music).

Thus, the European music ecosystem exemplifies the dual nature of cultural expressions as highlighted in the [UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#) as a bearer of meaning and cultural values as well as an economic good.

We also wish to reiterate the importance and value of the [UNESCO Recommendation on the status of the artist](#), which has been an instrument of reference for the music sector since its unanimous adoption by UNESCO Member States in 1980.

In light of the priorities of the incoming European Commission, and given your role as Commissioner with responsibility for the culture portfolio, we would ask you that you embrace music as vital to Europe’s diversity and competitiveness, and to support the music ecosystem, both through policy priorities as well as through funding opportunities.

We therefore ask you to maintain and further expand the Music Moves Europe (MME) framework by

- **Ensuring musical diversity** across Europe with regards to genre diversity, geographical diversity and the diversity of people, tasks and professions relevant for the music sector underlining the importance of micro, small and medium entities as well as professionals and non professionals;
- **Safeguarding the freedom of artistic/musical expression and freedom of speech**, within the EU and its external relations, including safeguarding the independence of cultural organisations;
- **Embracing a dialogue-based approach to international cultural exchange**, overcoming post-colonial structures through eye-level exchanges;
- Sustaining and **further developing music education and learning for all** in a diversity of settings, from formal to non formal and informal, this includes:

- **Access to music education and learning for both amateurs and professionals**, from early childhood and throughout life.
- Acknowledging the **value of music education** by including the Arts in the STEM approach, converting it to STEAM.
- Recognising the role of **music for health and wellbeing** by including it in all follow-up actions to the EU preparatory action CultureForHealth;
- **Ensuring fair remuneration and working conditions** for professionals working in the music sector¹;
- Acknowledging the **importance of music for young people** and also across **all generations** including as an enabler for social engagement;
- **Supporting the mobility of musicians and circulation of musical works**, addressing double-taxation, visa issues, and the transportation of musical instruments on trains and planes;
- **Supporting the green transition of the music sector**, acknowledging its contribution to environmental sustainability through diverse greening strategies as well as through its role models inspiring green behaviour amongst audiences and the culture sector at large;
- **Supporting diversity and inclusion for an equitable music sector** ensuring participation of all people irrespective of sex, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion or other status;
- **Collecting and providing data** on the European music ecosystem, e.g. by establishing a European Music Observatory;
- **Protecting, promoting and facilitating access to tangible** (such as musical instruments, scores, recordings) **and intangible musical heritage** (such as diverse forms of musical expressions and music traditions);
- **Ensuring media plurality** highlighting the importance of independent public service and private media for cultural diversity and freedom of expression;
- Supporting the music sector with regard to the **digital transformation**:
 - Ensuring the presence and visibility of diverse European content online, especially with regard to the (music) streaming market;
 - Supporting the recommendations of music performers', composers' and songwriters' representative organisations relative to the implementation of the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (CDSM) and the right of these creative professionals to oppose any unauthorised use of their protected contents by AI.

¹ The music sector as described in the European Agenda for Music (in alphabetical order): We understand the European music sector to include all of the people, organisations and companies on the continent of Europe who contribute to or engage in a significant way with music: artist managers, booking agents, creators, conferences, composers, distributors, festivals, industry events, instrument makers, labels, musicians, performers, producers, promoters, publishers, researchers, sound engineers, technicians, teachers, trainers, music venue operators and more. This includes professionals (earning a living through this work) and non-professionals (engaging in music as a free-time activity).

With regards to funding for music we urge you to

- **Ensure increased funding for music and culture in the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF):**
 - **Raise the overall budget for Creative Europe** as the only EU programme solely dedicated to the cultural and creative sectors which needs to be continued in the next MFF;
 - **Strengthen and expand the Creative Europe programme**, concretely the culture strand and its funding for cooperation projects, European networks and platforms, dedicated support for the music sector (MME) as well as Culture Moves Europe. This funding provides important opportunities for cultural cooperation and exchange, mobility of artists and cultural workers, artistic creation as well as for networking and capacity building of the culture sector at large.
 - **Ensure better accessibility for music organisations and projects within other EU funding programmes** such as Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Single market, European Social Fund, and the European Regional Development Fund.

We would like to discuss all these topics with you in a continuous and collaborative way in order to shape a music strategy for Europe. Therefore, **we request the formation of an expert group for music** based on the model of the expert group for cultural heritage. Such an expert group should reflect up-coming measures such as the Culture Compass, the AI Strategy for the Culture and Creative Sectors, the negotiations for the future MFF, issues of remuneration and working conditions, access to cultural heritage and cultural activities as well as international cultural relations. This expert group needs to reflect the diversity of the music sector in all its aspects as outlined above.

Such an expert group would allow us all collectively to ensure an ongoing exchange on relevant topics for the music sector at large in all its diversity.

We look forward to starting a conversation with you on the future of music in Europe.

Should you have any questions, we remain at your disposal,

With kind regards,

European/International Music Organisations

European Music Council (EMC)

Amateo – the European Network for Active Participation in Cultural Activities

Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC)

Europe Jazz Network (EJN)

European Association for Music in Schools (EAS)

European Chamber Music Teachers' Association (ECMTA)

European Choral Association (ECA)

European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO)

European Early Music Network (REMA)

European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO)

European Festivals Association (EFA)

European Folk Network (EFN)

European Music Managers Alliance (EMMA)

European Music School Union (EMU)

European Orchestra Federation (EOFed)

European Talent Exchange

European Union of Music Competitions for Youth (EMCY)

European Voice Teachers Association (EVTA)

Eurosonic Norderslaag (ESNS)

Independent Music Publishers International Forum (IMPF)

International Artist Organisation (IAO)

International Association of Music Information Centres (IAMIC)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

International Confederation of Accordionists (CIA)

International Council for Traditions of Music and Dance (ICTMD)

International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)

International Music + Media Centre (IMZ)

International Music Products Association (NAMM)

International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM)

JM International (JMI)

Keychange

Live DMA

Liveurope – the live music platform for new European talent

Music Innovation Hub

Opera Europa

RESEO – the European Network for Opera, Music and Dance Education

Sounds Now

Ulysses Platform

UpBeat – the European showcase platform for world music

National Music Councils

Austrian Music Council

Czech Music Council

Finnish Music Council

German Music Council

Hungarian Music Council

Latvian Music Council

National All-Ukrainian Music Union

Polish Music Council

Swiss Music Council

National/Specialised Music Organisations

Bulgarian Music Association (BMA)

Center for Music Ecosystems (CME)

Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation (CYSO)

Flemish Music Council (MRVL)

L'Alliance Musicale Luxembourg

Live Music Now Scotland

Miso Music Portugal

Moviment Coral Català (MCC)

Music Austria

Scottish Music Centre

Ukrainian Institute

Unison – Croatian Music Alliance

EMC members are listed in blue

Annex

Below is a non-exhaustive list of statements, letters and position papers dedicated to various aspects outlined in the letter above:

On the value of STEAM and arts education:

Joint Position Paper AEC, ELIA, CAE, EMC https://www.emc-imc.org/fileadmin/7_Cultural_Policy/EMC_statements/3_statement_On-the-Value-of-STEAM-and-Arts-Education.pdf

On Culture for Health:

CAE position paper <https://cultureactioneurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Culture-Health-and-Well-being-Position-Paper--Member-Consultation.pdf>

On fair working conditions:

ECSA: Navigating the Path to Fair Practice <https://composeralliance.org/media/1571-ecsa-survey-on-fair-practice-summary-of-results.pdf>

FIM: Manifesto on the Status of the Artist: https://www.fim-musicians.org/wp-content/uploads/manifesto_EN.pdf

LiveDMA: Post-Covid19 challenges in the live music scene across Europe: <https://live-dma.eu/report-post-covid-19-challenges-in-the-live-music-scenes-across-europe/>

On the green transition:

Center for Music Ecosystems: Your guide to music and the SDGs
<https://www.centerformusicecosystems.com/sdgs>

On Collecting and providing data:

Feasibility study for the establishment of a European Music Observatory (2020) by KEA European Affairs and Pantheia (commissioned by the European Commission):
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a756542a-249d-11eb-9d7e-01aa75ed71a1>

On digital transformation:

Joint letter on AI to European Commission's Executive Vice-President Virkkunen and Commissioner Micallef <https://composeralliance.org/news/2024/12/joint-letter-on-ai-to-european-commission-s-executive-vice-president-virkkunen-and-commissioner-micallef/>

Joint letter on impact of AI on European creative community
<https://composeralliance.org/news/2024/7/joint-letter-to-members-of-the-european-parliament-on-the-impact-of-artificial-intelligence-on-the-european-creative-community/>

On Creative Europe:

EMC position paper https://www.emc-imc.org/fileadmin/7_Cultural_Policy/EMC_statements/EMC_Position_Paper_on_Creative_Europe_Sept2024.pdf