



**MINUTES  
PLENARY MEETING  
11/12/2015**

**Chair:** Denys (EAEA)

**1. Opening of the meeting – Approval of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda was approved.

**2. Update on employment and social affairs**

Stefaan Ceuppens provided an update on EU initiatives with relevance to the employment and social domain, including the 2016 Commission Work Programme and the activities undertaken in the context of the "New Start for Social Dialogue", and he presented the outcomes of the informal working group on communication. See the presentation in [annex](#).

**3. Equality and diversity – forthcoming EU policy initiatives**

Juan Gonzalez Mellizo and Maria Fatima Ribeiro Vilas Boas gave a comprehensive overview of EU antidiscrimination and gender equality policies and activities (see presentations in [annex](#)).

While some delegates considered that equal opportunities are not a major issue for performers where talent makes the difference, others did point out that discrimination does (still) exist, e.g. on the basis of age. The sector has a particular responsibility in this domain, for instance through the way men/women and minorities are "portrayed" on stage.

Responding to delegates' questions/comments, the Commission representatives explained that: social partners have an important role to play in this domain, including through collective bargaining; EU funding is available and social partners are invited to look into the possibilities; the EU's action addresses all grounds of discrimination; the EU's role is to stimulate the debate, raise awareness and support the relevant actors, but the responsibility for action lies with the Member States and social partners.

**4. Follow-up EU initiatives – Trade negotiations**

Silke Lalvani explained the elements of the ongoing TTIP negotiations which are of possible relevance for the cultural sector, and concluded that the agreement should not

have a direct impact on the sector, even though issues such as radio spectrum and copyright should be monitored further (see presentation in [annex](#)).

Carole Tongue (CT) presented the activities of the European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity<sup>1</sup>, which aim at ensuring the appropriate implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. She referred among others to the 2015 Mons resolution, which calls for the audiovisual exception to be technology-neutral – hence covering the internet, including the platforms. The Coalitions strive for a general binding clause that would exclude audiovisual and (other) cultural services as a whole from any trade negotiations. CT called upon the social partners to work closely together to address the important challenges that the sector is facing, including in the domains of copyright, fair remuneration of creators, host provider liability, e-commerce, the future of television, etc.

## **5. Mobility**

### **a) Visa – Update on the visa code recast and touring visa; visas for performers travelling to USA for performers travelling to USA**

Daniel Csorgo briefly reminded the committee of the main elements of the Commission proposals for a visa code recast and a touring visa, which are being discussed by the co-legislators since 2013. The negotiations will hopefully be concluded in 2016, but the outcome is difficult to predict.

As regards US visas, the Commission priority is still to obtain full reciprocity for all EU Member States (which is still not the case for PL, RO, BG, CY and HR). Striving for specific (facilitating) provisions regarding artists could only be considered once this objective has been achieved.

Dave Webster informed the committee that a parliamentary debate was recently held in the UK on the issue of performers travelling to the US (see the briefing note in [annex](#)). A "Visa task force" has been formed in order to take the issue forward.

### **b) Travelling with musical instruments (CITES and instruments on air planes) – update**

Referring to the "strategic note" of FIM (see [annex](#)) that summarises the issues at stake, Thomas Dayan and Anita Debaere called upon all to continue collecting specific cases illustrating the problem and putting pressure on national governments.

In the meantime, Pearle\* offered to circulate its guidance note – which will be updated in 2016 (see [annex](#)).

### **c) Report of expert group on taxation – Next steps**

Dearbhal Murphy (DM) informed the committee that the report is being finalised and proposed to revise the SSDC's 2014 joint statement on the topic on that basis. It was pointed out that the new France-Germany tax treaty provides for exactly the opposite of what the sector is striving for.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ficdc.org/>

## **6. Training & skills**

### **a) Sector skills council project – Update**

Richard Polacek referred the delegates to the dedicated website<sup>2</sup> which contains all relevant information (meetings, reports,...) on this important project.

### **b) Presentation by one of the national partners**

This agenda point was cancelled.

## **7. Health & safety**

### **a) Update on the OiRA project**

DM informed the committee that phase 2 (communication/promotion) of the OiRA project is ongoing and that the final event will take place in Athens on 15-16 June 2016.

### **b) Project on focal dystonia in UK – Update**

The UK "guidance document" is still being developed and will hopefully be finalised by the next SSDC meeting.

## **8. Public funding**

The draft joint statement was presented. Only a few minor changes remain to be done.

## **9. Social dialogue work programme**

### **a) Evaluation work programme 2014-2015**

### **b) Work programme 2016-2017 – Exchange**

Both sides agreed that good progress was made on several points *and* that most of the topics of the 2014-2015 work programme remain relevant for the future. As a consequence, the headings for the 2016-2017 work programme will remain largely the same, while putting more focus on "deepening" capacity building at national level.

An advanced draft should be ready by the next SSDC meeting.

## **10. AOB**

Rares Bularca explained the features of the new IT-tool for the registration to SSDC meetings and the management of the reimbursement process (see presentation in annex).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.creativeskillseurope.eu/>

## Annexes

- Point 2 – Presentation ongoing activities in the field of employment and social affairs
- Point 3 – Presentation Overview of Non-Discrimination activities
- Point 3 – Presentation Equality between women and men in the EU
- Point 4 – Presentation Introduction to trade negotiations – TTIP, which impact on the LP sector
- Point 5a – Briefing note for parliamentary debate on UK musicians performing abroad
- Point 5b – Strategic note about the European regulation on air passengers' rights
- Point 5b – Guidance Travelling with music instruments on airplanes
- AOB – Presentation Agora (AGM)

### Annex: List of participants 11/12/2015

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p><b>Pearle*</b>            Ms Alexandra BOBES (FR)            Mr James BULLET (UK)            Ms Anita DEBAERE (EU)            Ms Liesbeth DEJONGHE (BE)            Mr Momchil GEORGIEV (BG)            Mr Italo INGLESE (IT)            Mr Geza KOVACS (HU)            Ms Silke LALVANI (EU)            Mr Pierre RENAULD (FR)            Ms Ilka SCHMALBAUCH (DE)            Mr Henrik STALSPETS (SE)</p> <p>11 employers representatives            (5 women, 6 men)            (2 EU, 2 EU-13, 7 EU-15)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p><b>EURO-MEI</b>            Mr William DONAGHY (UK)            Ms Hanna HARVIMA (EU)            Mr Richard POLACEK (EU)            Ms Nathalie SERANE (FR)            Mr Markus STAUT (DE)            Mr Pierre VANTORRE (FR)            Mr Pier VERDERIO (IT)</p> <p><b>FIA</b>            Mr Paul William FLEMING (UK)            Mr Denys FOUQUERAY (FR)            Ms Dearbhal MURPHY (EU)            Ms Laurette MUYLAERT (BE)</p> <p><b>FIM</b>            Mr Thomas DAYAN (EU)            Mr Maciej PACUŁA (PL)            Mr Leonard-Octavian PADURET (RO)            Mr Laurent TARDIF (FR)            Mr David WEBSTER (UK)</p> <p>16 workers representatives            (4 women, 12 men)            (4 EU, 2 EU-13, 10 EU-15)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Other participants</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms Carole TONGUE (President of the European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>European Commission</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.A.2)            Mr Daniel CSORGO (HOME.B.2 – Visa Policy)            Juan GONZALEZ MELLIZO (JUST.D.3 – Non discrimination policies and Roma coordination)            Maria Fatima RIBEIRO VILAS BOAS (JUST.D.2 – Gender equality)</p>	