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**To the attention of EU Member State representatives at CITES and national CITES Management Authorities in the European Union**

Copy to:  
Gaël de Rotalier  
CITES team  
Unit environmental agreements and trade  
DG Environment  
European Commission

**Subject: Request to include the musical instrument certificate (MIC) and travelling exhibition certificate in the agenda of next CITES meetings in 2016**

Reference:

*Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/870 of 5 June 2015 amending, as regards the trade in species of wild fauna and flora, Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97*

*Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/57 of 15 January 2015 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 792/2012 as regards the rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and in Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97*

Brussels, 1 September 2015

Dear Madam, Sir,

The European performing arts and music sector stakeholders represented by Pearle\* - Live Performance Europe, FIM - the International Federation of Musicians as well as the EILA, International Society of Violin and Bow Makers share a common concern on the issue of travelling with musical instruments containing parts of CITES-listed species.

Since the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 a new European CITES certificate tailor-made for musical instruments is available from national CITES authorities. The certificate aims to reduce administrative burdens and expenses. Orchestras can now apply for an extended travelling exhibition certificate.

We welcome the initiative of the European Commission to adapt relevant EU legislation to CITES Resolution 16.8 on frequent cross-border non-commercial movements of musical instruments and create “passports” for instruments containing parts of endangered species listed in the CITES Appendices.

It is of prime importance for the live performance sector as well as for violin and bow makers to allow easier travelling with a musical instrument containing parts of those species, as it is mostly professional musicians, orchestras, music ensembles and groups taking this kind of musical instruments abroad for the purpose of live concerts and other performances.

In this sense the recognition of EU CITES certificates at international level has to be guaranteed to avoid hindrances for applicants such as problems with customs at international borders. We highlight that the extension of the scope of the travelling exhibition certificate to include orchestras encountered problems as according to Article 1(1) b Commission Regulation 2015/870 it is designed for “commercial display” - a terminology which in this context is not clearly defined.

**We therefore request Member States to place the international recognition of the European musical instrument certificate as well as the extension of the travelling exhibition certificate on the agenda of both CITES meetings next year: the 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee from 11 to 15 January 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland and the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) from 24 September to 5 October 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa.**

The European Commission has already started to inform third countries about the new European certificates for musical instruments and orchestras and a notification to all CITES Parties is foreseen to speed up this process.

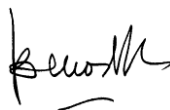
An agenda item on the musical instrument certificate at next CITES meetings would lead to further exchange on the topic and increase the knowledge of third countries about EU legislation and EU CITES certificates. At the same time, it could incentivise other Parties to implement CITES Resolution 16.8 from March 2013 and create an own MIC in line with the European approach.

The signatories of this letter are prepared to contribute to future discussions on the implementation of the musical instrument certificate and the extended travelling exhibition certificate as both documents are vital to sustain travelling with musical instruments containing CITES protected species and allow high level music activities in whatever country.

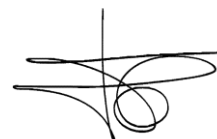
Yours sincerely,



Rolf Bolwin  
President Pearle\*



Benoît Machuel  
FIM Secretary General



Jan Strick  
President of the EILA

**FIM** The International Federation of Musicians (FIM) is the international NGO representing musicians' trade unions, guilds and associations globally, with members in about 70 countries covering all regions of the world. In the European Union, FIM counts 26 member unions in 21 EU Member States.

**PEARLE\*** - Live Performance Europe, is the 'Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe'. Pearle\* represents through its members associations the interests of about 7,000 theatres, theatre production companies, orchestras and music ensembles, opera houses, ballet and dance companies, festivals, producers, comedy, variety, circus and other organisations within the performing arts sector across Europe.

The Entente Internationale des Luthiers et Archetiers (**EILA**) is a professional association for master violin and bow makers, restorers and experts, that aims to encourage friendship, the sharing of knowledge and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our trade.

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