



The contribution of culture in combating poverty and social exclusion

A joint statement on behalf of the European sectoral social partners 'live performance' in the framework of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010

STATEMENT

The European social partners representing the live performance sector, have welcomed the initiative of the Belgian Presidency to discuss the contribution of culture in combating poverty and social exclusion.

The cultural sector has developed practices and activities to lower the threshold for socially excluded people to take part in cultural activities.

Several studies and reports have demonstrated that the inclusion in cultural activities is often an important stepping stone in preventing or addressing social exclusion. It is key for people in the recognition of identity and citizenship. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community" and the EU as well as its Member States, as Party to this UN declaration, should seek measures to implement this. Social partners therefore welcome that the EU wishes to develop policy guidelines, which recognize the rights of people who live in poverty to be entitled to culture.

Social partners underline that specific programs should be available which finance projects and activities that seek to develop the integration of excluded groups. Social partners also underline that Ministries of Culture of the Member States should endorse the principle of access to culture and should support the sector to execute this policy option.

Social partners hope that this Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion will lead to concrete outcomes and welcome that the Culture Council in its new Work Plan 2011-2014 foresees further activities in line with the transversal role of culture in supporting cultural diversity.

Adopted on 10 December 2010

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The European sectoral social dialogue 'live performance'

The European social partners of the live performance sector are: **PEARLE***, the Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe, and the **EAEA**, the European Arts & Entertainment Alliance, composed of FIM (International Federation of Musicians), FIA (International Federation of Actors) and EURO-MEI (European Federation of creative, technical and administrative workers in the entertainment sector). Pearle* represents over 4,500 theatres, theatre production companies, orchestras, operas, ballet and dance companies and other professional organisations in the performing arts in Europe. The EAEA represents about 600,000 workers in the sector.

The social partners of the live performance sector meet about 5 times per year in a sectoral social dialogue committee, facilitated by the European Commission (DG Employment – unit 'Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations').