

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE EU “COMMUNICATION ON A EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR CULTURE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD”



The AEC is a European organisation of more than 250 institutions in professional music training in 40 European countries, representing almost 90% of all officially recognised institutions in this sector¹.

The aims of the AEC are to promote European cooperation and intercultural dialogue in the professional music training sector. This is being achieved by various activities, such as the organisation of seminars and congresses, the publication of documents and websites, and the implementation of European cooperation projects. The Network for Music “Polifonia” coordinated by the AEC was recently mentioned by the European Commission as an “ERASMUS Success Story”.

The AEC greatly welcomes the publication of the EU “Communication on a European Agenda for Culture in a globalizing world” and the new pro-active approach in relation to culture by the EU as proposed in the Communication.

More specifically, the AEC:

- Supports the opinion presented in the Communication that culture can make an important contribution to the European integration, which can no longer be seen as a purely economical process.
- Underlines the growing awareness “that Europe has a unique role to play in promoting its cultural richness and diversity, both within Europe and world-wide”, as stated in the Communication. Music in particular can play an active role in promoting cooperation and intercultural dialogue on a global scale.
- Welcomes the findings of the study “The economy of culture in Europe”, which show that the cultural industries are making a significant contribution to the EU economy.
- Supports the objective mentioned in the Communication “to promote creativity in education by involving the cultural sector in building on the potential of culture” and is, representing a sector in which the synergy between education and culture is evident, uniquely placed to take developments in relation to this objective further.

Therefore, the member institutions of the AEC would like to call upon Ministers of Culture in EU member states to:

1. **Adopt the Communication and its underlying philosophy**
2. **Support the objectives and working methods suggested in the Communication**
3. **More specifically, exchange information on relevant issues through the Open Method of Coordination (OMC)**
4. **Invite the Commission to make use of the expertise of the AEC on synergies between education and culture, for example by consulting the AEC in the development of issues and indicators for the OMC related to training and education in the cultural sector and to cultural education in general education.**

For more information, please contact Mr Martin Prchal (AEC Chief Executive) at aecinfo@aecinfo.org.

¹ See annex for a full listing of all AEC member institutions