

AEC statement on current political developments

Representing the European Institutions of Higher Music Education, the AEC is a central player in the field of music, art and culture as well as in the field of higher education. The AEC is particularly committed to cultural exchange and cross-border thinking.

The association has its roots in the immediate post-war era, deeply concerned in healing wounds, bridging gaps and bringing nations in touch with each other again. The non-verbal language of music and the internationalization of higher music education is our contribution to a shared European cultural identity.

The AEC is deeply concerned about the last years' growth of isolationist and nationalist movements, and of the attempts to undermine the principles and values of democratically constituted societies.

AEC stands for open discourse, for promoting the exchange of ideas and human beings across borders and for encouraging international student- and teaching staff mobility.

Isolationism threatens the foundation of coexistence in a united Europe. The retreat to a narrow nationalism is an attack on freedom of thought, of diversity, and on the respect for the dignity of the individual.