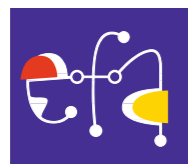




International
Society
for the
Performing Arts



EUROPEAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES FESTIVALS
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI FESTIVAL
EUROPÄISCHE FESTIVAL-VEREINIGUNG
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Cultural Networks at Work

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BRUSSELS ISPA AND EFA DECLARATION 8 JUNE 2007

EUROPEAN HOUSE FOR CULTURE IN BRUSSELS

Declaration of Intention

The European Festivals Association (EFA) and the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) herewith declare to join forces to set up the **European House for Culture** – in order to further collaboration and synergies within the cultural sector by creating a meeting-place, a reference point, an embassy, an interlocutor, a lobbying constitution primarily for cultural networks in Brussels and for those with an interest in the EU-decision making process in the field of culture in Brussels and beyond. This intention is supported by the cultural networks participating at the EFA/ISPA ‘Cultural Networks at Work - Conference’ on 8 June 2007:

Many cultural networks are already located in Brussels. Many cultural networks and initiatives have intrinsic interests in the EU-decision-making process in ‘Brussels’ when it comes to the culturally-relevant territories.

All those networks and initiatives have their respective, very individual profile and their specific tasks, services and missions, but: many of them perform similar activities or have overlapping interests and missions. Those may be organized more efficiently (on the whole or in part) in common.

The **European House for Culture** in Brussels will facilitate collaborations and will create synergies at a physical level.

The arts and cultural sector yet has to become an authoritative voice and set up a structured consultation process – as other sectors in Europe already do who organize themselves within a certain constitution – to weigh upon the European decision-making process, even upon the agenda of the decision process itself. The better this voice as well as the process is elaborated in terms of content and visibility, the more it may come into effect.

The **European House for Culture** is one step in the direction of a stronger, more prominent positioning of arts and culture in the European decision-making process.

The **mission of the House** is to advocate the place of culture in Europe, to strengthen the power of the cultural sector, attribute greater visibility to its position and create new dynamics within the sector in order to weigh upon decision-making process at a European level.

The **aims are to create synergies**, to individualize common interests, join forces and offer a home – or an embassy to networks and initiatives in the field of culture, in order to stimulate the dialogue and interaction between cultural networks at a European level and foster and strengthen collaborative relations and partnerships, to enlarge each network’s ambitions and become a meeting place for debate and consultation between Culture and Politics.

Networks and initiatives who commit themselves to the House’s Mission will become partner to the House. Those networks or initiatives can have their secretariat in the House, can have their Brussels address in the House and will refer to the House as an ‘embassy’, a meeting-point.

In the fall of 2007 a ‘Mission Statement including Activity Proposal’ will be prepared by the different networks. In 2008 the **European House for Culture** will be launched. The launch will go along with the publication dedicated to the ‘Cultural Networks at Work’ – proceedings and conclusions of the EFA/ISPA Conference on 7 and 8 June 2007.