



## The European Festivals Association meets Ivo Josipović

### European festivals and Croatian President sign Commitment to a cultural Europe

#### Press Release

8 June 2010

On 5/6 June 2010, the European Festivals Association (EFA), the major network for festivals from Europe and beyond, signed a Commitment to a cultural Europe. First signatory party was Ivo Josipović, President of Croatia and former long-standing director of the Music Biennale Zagreb. Together with 30 festivals from the South-European region EFA urges a broad recognition of the role of arts and culture in society and closer cooperation between the Balkan region and the rest of Europe. The event was part of the EFA flagship project "Open The Door" ([www.Open-The-Door.eu](http://www.Open-The-Door.eu)) initiated at the occasion of the European Year For Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. It was co-organised with the Music Biennale Zagreb and the Croatian Composers' Society.

Ivo Josipović underlined that the societal role of culture has to be recognised in particular by political decision-makers that are not related to culture. "I'm trying to involve culture in other policies. (...) The situation can be improved if politicians, cultural actors and artists have a proper relation, a proper goal on Europe." He also emphasised the significant work of networks such as the European Festivals Association in order to reach that goal also beyond European borders: "Your mission not only in Europe but also in Asia and Africa is very important."



EFA is the umbrella organisation for festivals across Europe and beyond representing more than 100 festivals, national festivals associations and cultural organisations from 38 countries. More information at [www.efa-aef.eu](http://www.efa-aef.eu) and [www.Open-The-Door.eu](http://www.Open-The-Door.eu).

Contact:  
Juliane Reissig  
Communication  
European Festivals Association  
Kleine Gentstraat 46  
9051 Ghent-Belgium  
T +32 9 241 8080  
F +32 9 241 8089  
[Juliane@efa-aef.eu](mailto:Juliane@efa-aef.eu)  
[www.efa-aef.eu](http://www.efa-aef.eu)

Next to Ivo Josipović, **Darko Brlek** (EFA President), **Antun Tomislav Šaban** (General Secretary of the Croatian Composers' Society), **David Baile** (CEO International Society of the Performing Arts, ISPA, on behalf of 350 members from all over the world) and festivals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey call for a long-term support of the cultural sector in political, structural as well as in financial terms. "The variety of inherent values culture and international cultural collaboration bring about must become a focal point in all policy areas," states the Commitment.

**EFA President Darko Brlek** said: "Arts and culture are key factors for regional development, European integration and of active citizenship. For 60 years, EFA and its members have engaged in international collaboration regardless of political boundaries or borders."

The Zagreb meeting was the third stop of the "Open The Door" project after Stockholm/Sweden where it was launched and Merano/Italy where the 2010 EFA General Assembly and Conference took place. So far, more than 100 festivals have committed to increase access to festivals for artists and citizens through the project website [www.Open-The-Door.eu](http://www.Open-The-Door.eu).





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Juliane Reissig  
Communication  
European Festivals Association  
Kleine Gentstraat 46  
9051 Ghent-Belgium  
T +32 9 241 8080  
F +32 9 241 8089  
[Juliane@efa-aef.eu](mailto:Juliane@efa-aef.eu)  
[www.efa-aef.eu](http://www.efa-aef.eu)

## Commitment

Open The Door to Arts and Culture

Open The Door to Europe

## List of festivals committing

Fondacion "FEIM IBRAHIMI" (Albania)  
International Festival "Sarajevo Winter" (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
The Spring of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
March Music Days International Festival (Bulgaria)  
Varna Summer International Festival (Bulgaria)  
UBC (Bulgaria) Union des Compositeurs Bulgare (Bulgaria)  
Dubrovnik Summer Festival (Croatia)  
Histria Festival (Croatia)  
Music Biennale Zagreb (Croatia)  
Haydn at Eszterháza (Hungary)  
Ohrid Summer Festival (Macedonia)  
Festival "KAMERFEST" (Prishtina)  
Flute Festival (Prishtina)  
Kosova Chopin Festival (Prishtina)  
Prishtina Jazz Festival (Prishtina)  
Festival "ReMusica" (Prishtina)  
Prishtina Kids Festival (Prishtina)  
Eurothalia Theatre Festival (Romania)  
George Enescu International Festival and Competition (Romania)  
BELEF – Belgrade Summer Festival (Serbia)  
BEMUS – Belgrade Music Festival (Serbia)  
ARS RAMOVŠ (Slovenia)  
Festival Ljubljana (Slovenia)  
International Ankara Music Festival (Turkey)  
Aspendos International Opera & Ballet Festival (Turkey)  
D-Marine Turgutreis International Festival of Classical Music (Turkey)  
International Bursa Festival (Turkey)  
International Izmir Festival (Turkey)  
Istanbul International Music Festival (Turkey)  
Mersin International Music Festival (Turkey)  
Side International Culture and Arts Festival (Turkey)

