

# Europe for Festivals - Festivals for Europe

## European Festivals Association proposes festival policy at European Parliament's CULT Committee

### Press Release

Brussels, 23 November 2011

**On 22 November 2011, the European Festivals Association (EFA) presented a proposal for a pilot project introducing a future festival policy at EU level to the Members of the European Parliament at the Committee on Culture and Education: "Europe for Festivals – Festivals for Europe". The proposal foresees the publication of a Festival Guide, an EU Award 'Festivals for Europe' and an EU Label. Its aim is to add value to the festival scene and to allow the European project to benefit from the dynamics of festivals at the same time. "Under the current EU Programme, 700 festivals apply, and only around 30 get a grant. This is discouraging, and needs to be changed," urges EFA Secretary General Kathrin Deventer.**

Artistic excellence, recognition of the arts in society, access to culture, peer-to-peer learning as well as citizens' involvement are the key conditions to be part of the **Programme "Europe for Festivals – Festivals for Europe"**. It reflects the value driven policy of the EU towards its ambitious Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

"A programme for European festivals aims at a more active involvement of festivals in a joint promotion of Europe and its cultural potential. It invites festivals to take up their European responsibility in shaping, developing and promoting Europe as a cultural project. In an innovative and artistic approach, it will bring Europe to festivals and festivals will bring Europe to its citizens," underlines **EFA President Darko Brlek**.

In the proposal for the new EU budget and a new generation of EU Culture Programmes, the European Festivals Association understands the EU's ambition to engage in process-oriented, cross-border, participatory sustainable development of the cultural sector and at the same time to create emblematic, visible moments of contemporary creation and diffusion of works. In this context, a strong collaboration and structural agreements between the European, national and local levels are proposed and supported by festival leaders.

Following the presentation of the proposal, **MEP and Chairwoman Committee on Culture and Education Doris Pack** concluded: "There will be a call to establish a pilot project entitled 'Europe for Festivals – Festivals for Europe' next year. If we collaborate with those festivals, we will have the opportunity to reach people we would never be able to reach otherwise. We can sensitise those people for our common project, for the vision of Robert Schuman."

EFA is the representative network of festivals in Europe (and beyond). In the past years, EFA has been lobbying together with festivals and partner networks for a strong inclusion of arts and culture in all EU policy areas such as external affairs or regional development. "In 2012, EFA celebrates its 60th anniversary following the motto 'Celebrate the Arts. Transform People. Imagine the World'. Against this background, EFA, its members and its allies confirm to the European Commission, the European Parliament and ministries at all levels to continue raising awareness of the cultural dimension in the European project," stresses **EFA Secretary General Kathrin Deventer**.



The European Festivals Association is the umbrella organisation for festivals across Europe and beyond representing more than 100 festivals, national festivals associations and cultural organisations from 40 countries. Information on EFA and its activities can be found on the EFA website: [www.efa-aef.eu](http://www.efa-aef.eu). If you are interested in more details, photos or an interview, please contact EFA.

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