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Festivals

Open doors. Open minds.
Build societies!

Europe is first of all a cultural project. Festivals, arts and culture play – and have always played – an important role in the European integration process. They have a transforming power in our societies. By providing **access to arts and culture** for everybody, festivals help **improve the quality of life** of those in regions and cities. In the framework of its 2010 flagship project “Open The Door”, the European Festivals Association calls upon the force of festivals all over the world to **contribute to awareness-raising and to the recognition of this transformative power**.

For 60 years, the European Festivals Association has brought together festivals from across Europe and the world, from Scandinavia to Central and Southern Europe and countries around the Mediterranean, from Russia to the Arab world to Asia and South America – **regardless of political boundaries or borders**.

Since 1991, culture has been anchored in the Treaty establishing the European Union, through its article 128 (in the **Lisbon Treaty Article 167**), which marked the first time that the European Union has added an article on culture to its legal structure. Furthermore, in 2007 the European Union adopted the European Agenda for Culture, the first ever common European strategy for culture in the EU, with a view also on EU external affairs and the role of culture in this respect.

Culture has been and is part of the *aquis communautaire* for all accession countries throughout the enlargement process. Within **Chapter 26 on Education and Culture** Members States have to “ensure that their international commitments allow for preserving and promoting cultural diversity.”

We believe that the variety of inherent values culture and international cultural collaboration bring about must become a focal point in all policy areas. Accession is a chance for transformation – a chance to support the development of a cultural Europe.

COMMITMENT

Open The Door to Arts and Culture Open The Door to Europe

6 June 2010, Zagreb / Croatia

Therefore, all signing parties agree that

- ◆ arts and culture policies should be recognised as a **priority action line in the *aquis communautaire***.
- ◆ arts and culture should be taken into consideration in **neighbourhood as well as other external affairs policies** of the European Union.
- ◆ arts and culture have an enormous potential to foster the **regional development** and also **integration** of the Balkan region into the European community.
- ◆ arts and culture are central to active **involvement by civil society** in the political decision making process at local, national and EU level during the accession process.
- ◆ **mobility** of artists and cultural operators both in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe must be strongly supported in order to allow for exchange of innovative ideas and talents that benefit European society as a whole.
- ◆ **funding opportunities** for cultural actions, organisations and festivals (both in the region and beyond) that enhance integration and European co-operation, civil society dialogue, mobility and access to arts and culture in the Balkans need to be advanced in order to make optimum use of the potential of arts and culture.
- ◆ the **development of an independent cultural sector** must be supported in the long-term – in political, structural as well as in financial terms.

The undersigning arts festivals and parties from the EU countries, candidate countries, potential candidate countries and non-EU countries commit to **continuing the dialogue** between political decision-makers at all levels and cultural operators, both from the region and European level also beyond the ‘Zagreb Commitment.’

Signing parties:

Ivo Josipović, President of the Republic of Croatia

Darko Brlek, President of the European Festivals Association,
on behalf of all festivals committing to “Open The Door”

Antun Tomislav Šaban, General Secretary of the Croatian
Composers’ Society

David Baile, Chief Executive Officer of the International Society
for the Performing Arts, on behalf of ISPA members

List of festivals committing to “Open The Door”:

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)
Histrion 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)