

# ETC POSITION PAPER « CREATIVE EUROPE »

FRIDAY APRIL 27 2012



## Position paper « Creative Europe »

The new programme to support culture in Europe

The European Theatre Convention (ETC), a multiple beneficiary of the current « Culture » programme and its predecessor programmes, welcomes the European Commission's (EC) proposal "Creative Europe", the only EU instrument dedicated to the cultural and creative sectors.

The ETC fully recognizes and supports the efforts made by the EC, a longstanding partner for the leading pan-European network of public theatres. Whilst the EC proposes to cut the majority of the EU programmes in the next budget they propose to INCREASE the budget for the culture and education programmes. The ETC shares the vision of the EC that increasing the investment in culture, heritage and the arts will help Europe to overcome the crisis and to develop smart innovative and inclusive growth.

The ETC has participated throughout the development process of the design of the new funding instrument in submitting contributions to the "green paper of cultural and creative industries", the mid-term evaluation of the current Culture Programme, as well as to the call issued by the EC to express and share opinions and priorities on the future funding programme dedicated to the cultural and creative sectors.

As member of Culture Action Europe, the ETC has joined forces with the cultural European sector and supports the campaign 'we are more – act for culture in Europe'. Investing in a unique instrument that nourishes a vision of societies that values **arts and culture as factors that strengthen solidarity between communities**, is particularly important in the context of uncertainty due to the financial crisis and to the delivery of the EU2020 objectives on inclusive growth.

On Member State level, the ETC joined the German delegation of Culture Action Europe members and supports the commonly developed statement submitted to the national policy makers on ministry level and to European parliamentarians.

The European Theatre Convention asks EU Member States and the European Parliament to **support the proposed overall budget for Creative Europe**.

**Observations:**

- The ETC asks to avoid the fusion between the market and non-market oriented cultural and creative sectors: ETC suggests that non-market oriented cultural activities should be clearly delimited from media and the cultural industry and that the instruments targeted to the culture sector and those to the media, remain two separate and autonomous programme strands under the umbrella of "Creative Europe", otherwise the cultural values would be left aside and the commercial sector would be favored by the new programme.

- The ETC calls for an **improved recognition of the social and educational dimension of culture and the importance of risk taking and experimentation** in particular for the performing arts and theatre when designing the explicit programme objectives to meet the overall programme goal: **Through transnational co-operation: to support creative processes and their development; to share risk and experimentation; to forge relationships for a stronger European cultural space participating in inclusive development.**

- The current proposal remains unclear regarding the eligibility of third member countries to participate in the new funding programme. This issue represents an important concern for the ETC, as the network has members in such countries and often transnational co-operation projects involve partners from those areas.

- The ETC notices the discontinuation of operating grants for networks, but recognises the future possibility to receive support for cooperation measures for EU network bodies. However, it is important to ensure that the measure supporting European cultural networks recognises them as key actors ensuring active participation of civil society in European cooperation. Therefore particular attention shall be paid to the implementation of the operating programme, which should enable networks to apply as sole beneficiary to this special strand, allowing them to act in addition as partner in other co-operation projects funded by the programme as long as regulations on double funding issues are respected.

Berlin, April 23 2012