

**Joint statement of social partners of the EU Live Performance Social Dialogue Committee  
(Pearle\*, and the EAEA - FIA, FIM, EURO-MEI),  
Regarding the potential impact of Brexit on the sector**

The European Sectoral Social Partners in the Live Performance Sector express their grave concern about the potential threat to the industry posed by Brexit. We call on the negotiators on both sides to protect the Live Performance sector from any negative impacts resulting from a hard Brexit and in particular to give consideration to the potentially severe damage it would inflict on the live performance industry across the EU and UK. More specifically:

- 1) Mobility of workers between the UK and EU is essential for the live performance sector. As jobs in the sector become increasingly international and co-productions flourish, workers in the arts and entertainment industry, and their employers, have become reliant on the freedom to work for short periods and at short notice across Europe, without burdensome visa requirements or other restrictions. Touring is a key feature for the sector and enables the maximum exploitation of productions and for memorable performances to be shared with a broad European audience. Performers and creative workers of all kinds therefore risk impact on their careers if their ability to work freely between the UK and EU is curtailed. This in turn will have repercussions for these industries which are of great financial and cultural importance to the UK and EU. Negotiators on both sides must ensure that arts and entertainment industry workers are able to work across the EU and the UK post-Brexit with minimum administrative and financial burdens. This is also true of the Live Performance industry in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, where a hard border would have a devastating impact on the cross-border flow of productions and sectoral workers.
- 2) Mobility is also expected to be impacted in relation to the actual temporary mobility of the sets and other goods part of a touring production when there will be administrative requirements to enter and leave the customs union, time needed to cross the borders and additional costs.
- 3) Social partners also express concern regarding possible import/export limitations or extra levies or taxes on the purchase of goods such musical instruments and technical equipment from EU or UK. It is essential that the live performance sector can continue to rely on the high quality goods and equipment it is used to purchase.
- 4) Of particular concern in the music sector is the potential impact of Brexit on the transportation of musical instruments. The imposition of carnets for transporting musical instruments and other items across borders would add a significant administrative and financial burden, and musicians and/or music ensembles travelling within the EU with musical instruments containing CITES-listed species would no longer be exempt from the burdensome obligation to hold a Musical Instrument Certificate.
- 5) The European social partners also believe it is important to continue to ensure that the same standards in working conditions are maintained for live performance workers post-Brexit. Any future trade deal between the EU and UK must include a commitment from the UK not to fall behind the EU in relation to employment rights, and provisions for freelance workers who



make up a large part of the sectoral workforce, such as it has been proclaimed by the British government<sup>1</sup>.

- 6) Social partners wish to remind negotiators of the importance of cultural tourism which has a direct impact on the financial resilience of theatres, festivals, music venues, and others.

The European Sectoral Social partners in the Live Performance sector urge careful consideration of these sectoral needs in the course of negotiations, to avoid an outcome that will devastate performers' and other creative workers' careers and incomes, and jeopardise the quality and sustainability of Live Performance production between the UK and EU in the future.

#### The European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Live Performance

The European social partners are represented by **PEARLE\*-Live Performance Europe**, the Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe, and the workers in the sector represented by the **EAEA, the European Arts & Entertainment Alliance**, composed of composed of FIM (International Federation of Musicians), FIA (International Federation of Actors) and UNI MEI (Media, Entertainment & Arts Sector of UNI Global Union). Pearle\*-Live Performance Europe, represents over 10,000 organisations in the music and performing arts and live entertainment sector (publicly funded and private). The EAEA represents about 600,000 workers in the sector.

Social partners meet 3 to 4 times per year in the sectoral social dialogue committee 'live performance,' facilitated through the European Commission, DG Employment – Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue Unit.

**Brussels, December 2018**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workplace-rights-if-theres-no-brexit-deal/workplace-rights-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>