

Brussels, 17 September 2021

## **LIVE EVENTS ORGANISERS ACKNOWLEDGE THE EC RESPONSE TO THE REPORT ON THE CHALLENGES OF SPORTS EVENTS ORGANISERS IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT AND CONTINUE TO STRESS THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

The Live Content Coalition for EU Action on Piracy acknowledges the European Commission's response to the European Parliament's Resolution on "Challenges of the sports events organisers in the digital environment" dated 20 July 2021.

**We are pleased to note the European Commission's recognition in its letter of the need for greater protections** for the broadcast of live sports events in order to tackle their illegal transmission more efficiently. **We also appreciate the Commission's commitment to further actions on piracy** that would properly respond to existing realities that the rightsholders of live sports broadcasts are confronted with on a day-to-day basis. As organisers of a range of live events, **we strongly believe that these measures, when adopted, should apply to all live broadcasts of events in order to protect all sectors equally.**

With regard to the necessary course of action, **we believe that these critical measures should consist of a legislative proposal containing all the essential elements requested by the European Parliament in their Resolution.** Fundamentally, this proposal should include immediate take-down of illegal broadcasts of live content, effective enforcement of rights, the increasing need of cross-border enforcement, the urgent need for effective notice and action mechanisms, blocking injections, and an efficient trusted flagger system. **The self-regulatory instruments that the Commission mentions, such as the Memorandum of Understanding on online advertising and intellectual property rights or the more recent Piracy and Counterfeiting Toolbox are simply not sufficiently equipped to address the issue of piracy of live events.**

Furthermore, in light of the continuing and growing issue of illegal online piracy of live content which significantly harm sectors already brought to their knees as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that **the European Commission should not wait until after the adoption of the Digital Services Act before proposing this new solution. We firmly believe that the time to act is now and we call the European institutions on presenting and developing new and meaningful legislation to that end by spring 2022.**

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ACT members finance, produce, promote and distribute content and services benefiting millions of Europeans across all platforms. We entertain and inform Europe's households every day via thousands of channels, VoD and OTT services available across Europe. ACT believes that a healthy and sustainable commercial broadcasting sector plays a crucial role for Europe's economy, society and culture.



The Arena Resilience Alliance (ARA) is a special purpose vehicle created by the European Arenas Association to demonstrate solidarity, and the need for concerted action in relation to the existence of arenas as a societal hub in the provision of indoor live music and sports event.



FEAT's members are leading live event professionals from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, as well as Norway and Switzerland. They are the promoters for music artists (including Adele, Ed Sheeran, Elton John, Björk, Iron Maiden, Florence + the Machine, Rolling Stones, Radiohead and Rammstein) Comedians (including Maz Jobrani, Aziz Ansari, Michael McIntyre, Ane Høgsberg, and Dara O'Briain) and festivals (including Nova Rock Festival, Hurricane/Southside Festivals and Pitchfork Paris). For more information, visit FEAT's website <http://www.feat-alliance.org>



Pearle\* - Live Performance Europe is the European employers' federation of live performance organisations. Through our members, we represent more than 10,000 organisations in the sector across Europe, including theatres, theatre production companies, bands and music ensembles, orchestras, opera houses, ballet, dance companies, festivals, concert venues, producers, promoters, agents, comedy, variété, circus, event suppliers and others.



The Sports Rights Owners Coalition ("SROC") is a forum of over 50 international and national sports bodies and competition organisers, with a particular focus on rights issues. SROC members represent the leading and most popular sports competitions, attracting millions of spectators and viewers and more and more impacted by illegal broadcast and digital piracy. More information about us can be found on our website: [www.sroc.info](http://www.sroc.info)