

Stakeholder consultation of 15 July 2022 re. CoP19

Joint statement by CSFI, FIM and Pearle*

This statement is submitted by the *Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale*, the *International Federation of Musicians*, and *PEARLE – Live Performance Europe*, with the support of the *International Association of Violin and Bow Makers (EILA)*, the *International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (IPCI)* and the *International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species*.

Many musicians perform with valuable and sometimes culturally significant musical instruments that were legally crafted decades or centuries ago. Some of these instruments may contain small amounts of ivory, shell, reptile skin, rosewood or other materials regulated under CITES. The international use of musical instruments by musicians and ensembles, orchestras and music groups is essential to promote cultural dialogue, spark artistic innovation, and support international cultural activity.

In partnership with CITES parties, music stakeholders have undertaken efforts to increase compliance with current permit requirements. At the same time, policy improvements that will alleviate unnecessary burdens are pursued.

At the 16th Conference of the Parties, Resolution Conf. 16.8 was adopted on *Frequent Cross-Border Non-Commercial Movements of Musical Instruments*, creating a multi-use Musical Instrument Certificate (MIC). At the following conference (CoP17), unanimous approval was given to improve the text and specify its non-commercial scope. ([Resolution Conf. 16.8 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#))

Musicians travelling with instruments must apply to their CITES management authorities for single permits, which must be credentialed at each border by CITES enforcement officials.

Worryingly, the process of issuing and credentialing these permits varies a lot from country to country. This process should be harmonised to facilitate non-commercial travel with musical instruments. This is an action that all parties in the European Union could immediately support and undertake.

Many individual musicians and ensembles report that the time and financial expense incurred to obtain and use the MIC leaves no option but to forgo travel with their best musical instruments. We, therefore, recommend streamlining this process, in compliance with CITES directives, through simplified procedures for those activities that do not constitute a threat to the conservation of protected species.

Such simplification would include:

- Permit credentialing exemptions for musical instruments transported by cargo under an ATA carnet – an internationally recognised customs re-export document.
- The implementation of an electronic permit system and a streamlined permit renewal process.
- Amending resolution 16.8 and, in advance of CoP19, consider opportunities to exempt non-commercial movement of musical instruments from the current full battery of permit requirements, such as manual stamping at each border, which can cause travel delays.
- Consistent with [Decision 18.171](#) on Simplified Procedures for Permits and Certificates adopted at CoP 18, the Secretariat could recommend that musical instruments transported with a MIC be made eligible for simplified procedures.

As we await exemptions from the permit process, we strongly support the efforts of CITES parties to adopt and implement an electronic permit system. Electronic permitting would help streamline and

improve the acquiring, using, and invalidating of musical instrument certificates. Under current rules, musicians holding individual permits must void them before their instruments can be included on a group permit (TEC). Given the narrow timeframe between engagements, this is impractical. An electronic system would help speed up the permit issuance and the invalidation processes while reducing the burden on enforcement authorities. Additionally, for individual musicians who retain ownership of their instruments over time, the burden could be lessened by simplifying the permit renewal procedure.

We would also like to comment Brazil's proposal to list *paubrasilia echinata* (*pernambuco*) on Appendix I with an annotation. We firmly condemn, without any ambiguity, the illegal harvesting and export of *pernambuco*. We are very concerned, however, that the proposal would lead to unintended consequences that would not serve the interest of conserving the species. In fact, an Appendix I listing constitutes a drastic option that would have devastating consequences on the music sector. It could also undermine the music industry's generation-long investments in the science, replanting and conservation of *pernambuco*. We encourage the European Union to work with music sector stakeholders toward a policy solution that will avoid the imposition of unnecessary regulatory burdens, minimize the impact on international musical commerce, and fully protect *pernambuco*.

We therefore recommend increasing the dialogue between Brazil and stakeholders, to address this issue efficiently without endangering bow-making, which is a vital activity for stringed instruments worldwide.