

PRESS RELEASE

Environmental sustainability, social security and posting, taxation, health and safety, in the spotlight at the Pearle* members conference in Porto

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On the eve of the launch of the new European Commission on 1st December, Pearle* members from across Europe met for their 58th General Assembly in Porto, Portugal (28th and 29th November). The meeting was chaired by the President of Pearle* Morten Gjeltén, and hosted by PERFORMART, the Portuguese Association of Performing Arts.

Included within the conference, Pearle* organised the fourth and final [Behind the Stage](#) (BtS) Capacity Building Meeting, a project that aims at empowering the role and capacity of employers' organisations in the live performance sector and contributing to European social dialogue.

Opened by the Mayor Of Porto Rui Moreira, the conference kicked off with a keynote on how to make culture a leading subject on the agenda. The second day opened with a keynote from Vania Rodrigues who challenged participants to 'rethink cultural management and make a case for civil disobedience'.

The fourth Behind the Stage meeting opened with a presentation from the European Agency Health and Safety, of its work and activities, including the 2020 campaign on MSD Musculoskeletal disorders. Social partners in the sector have a longstanding relationship with the Agency, in particular since the development of the European Online interactive risk Assessment tools for venues and productions.

Keeping in mind the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the EC Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee Live Performance on 9 and 10 October in Brussels where a joint declaration was signed by the social partners in the presence of DG Employment and DG Culture, the fourth Behind the Stage meeting focused on 'Time for Action'. Under professional guidance, participants discussed next steps for action on the wide range of topics which had been discussed in previous meetings stemming from the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Under the heading 'no time to lose', three workshops and seminars with invited experts were organized with a view to learn how to embrace and encourage change in the following areas: communication & PR for associations and taxation, social security and posting and environmental sustainability.

The third topic was additionally discussed in a workshop organised in the context of the EFA-RISE project, in which the Belgian-based organization PULSE provided concrete tools to implement an environmental-friendly policy in cultural organisations.

Looking at how International conventions, treaties and studies impact the sector, members reiterated the need for abolishing article 17 from the OECD tax model treaty. Referring to the OECD studies on EU economic migration models, members underlined the importance for the sector to continue having a flexible economic migration policy allowing to employ and work with third-country national artists and professionals whenever there is an artistic need. It was



also said that there is urgent need to address the rule of the 90/180 day stay for third-country nationals in the Schengen area as this continues to hinder artist mobility and touring.

At the conference in Porto, the Association of Slovene Theatre Managers joined as full member of Pearle*.

Ends

Note to editors:

Pearle*- Live Performance Europe is a European federation representing through its members more than 10,000 theatres, theatre production companies, orchestras and music ensembles, opera houses, ballet and dance companies, festivals, concert halls, venues and other organisations within the performing arts and music sector across Europe. The aim of this non-profit making organisation is the establishing of a stable environment by supporting sustainability and promotion of the Performing Arts across Europe.