



Press release

Launch of online tool to facilitate travel preparations with musical instruments containing CITES-protected species

Brussels, 8 February 2022

Pearle* – Live Performance Europe and the International Federation of Musicians (FIM) are pleased to announce the launch of their joint website [Travelling with musical instruments in compliance with CITES rules](#). The site includes profiled questions to help musicians as well as music ensembles prepare their touring activities with musical instruments containing CITES-protected species¹.

The objective is to help users determine whether a CITES Musical Instrument Certificate (MIC) is required when crossing international borders with their musical instruments for non-commercial purposes, such as concerts and other live performance events, competitions, teaching and recording. Musicians, orchestras and other music groups can also identify steps to be taken before their departure.

The use of the targeted online questionnaire is free of charge and facilitates preparation of international touring activities². Whether a MIC (or a TEC for music groups or orchestras) is needed or not depends on three criteria: the presence of protected species in the instrument, the travel destination and the purpose of travel.

The website is available in English and French; other languages such as German will follow shortly.

Besides the questionnaire, the site also includes our joint publication [Crossing borders](#) that has been recently updated. It gives a practical overview of CITES rules and provides guidance to orchestras, music groups and musicians travelling with instruments containing protected species.

John Smith, FIM President, said “We wanted this tool to be interactive, simple and easily accessible: it is now fully operational and we are proud to open it to the public. All musicians should use it before touring abroad.”

Morten Gjeltén, President of Pearle* added: “The online tool will be of great help for orchestras, ensembles or music groups to prepare travel. For different destinations and practically all protected species used in instruments, it shows which steps must be taken to obtain the necessary administrative documents before going on tour.”

A number of legally crafted musical instruments may contain elephant ivory, tortoise shell, reptile skin, rosewood or other materials regulated under CITES. Pearle* and FIM wish to recall their commitment and support of the CITES objectives on combatting wildlife trafficking, including illegal trade of ivory.

Pearle* and FIM extend special thanks to the German Federal Office for Nature Conservation (BfN), in particular the German CITES enforcement authority as well as the UK Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for their support and advice regarding the information provided on the website.

¹ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a multilateral treaty. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild.

² For European musicians or ensembles, it may include tours outside EU borders

The International Federation of Musicians (FIM), founded in 1948, is the only body representing musicians' unions globally, with members in about 65 countries covering all regions of the world. FIM is recognised as an NGO by diverse international authorities such as WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), the ILO (International Labour Office), the European Commission, the European Parliament or the Council of Europe. <https://www.fim-musicians.org>

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PEARLE* – Live Performance Europe represents through its member associations the interests of more than 10,000 organisations including orchestras, music ensembles, groups, festivals, concert halls, producers, promoters and service suppliers in the event technology across Europe. This includes profit as well as non-profit organisations, ranging from micro-enterprises to companies over 250 employees. Pearle* is recognised by the European Commission as a European sectoral social partner, representing the employers in the European sectoral social dialogue committee live performance. Pearle* is member of the CITES working group on annotations and electronical systems. Pearle* also has an observer status with WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) and ILO (International Labour Organisation). <https://www.pearle.eu>

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