

To: José Manuel Barroso,
President of the European Commission

Europe, the 8th of April 2013

Dear President Barroso,

At a time of intense financial austerity, the European Commission took, under your direction, a small but significant step by proposing an increase to the cultural budget through the Creative Europe programme. The increase proposed was very small in financial terms but had a high value in signaling a strengthened role for arts and culture in the building of Europe's future.

Indeed, investing in culture, education and research not only generates prosperity; it is essential to foster both freedom of expression and creative thinking which, in turn, lead to sustainable prosperity. Moreover, cultural exchange brings hope and fosters civic engagement thus contributing to repair torn social fabric. Ultimately, culture means practicing democracy and giving content to citizenship.

Therefore, the step taken by the European Commission in proposing an increased EU budget for culture cannot be totally undone. It is a sum too limited to be an important part of any negotiated budget cuts. And it is an idea too great to be dealt away with too swiftly.

We know that democracy is a slow and delicate process. We know that economic and political compromise is required. We know that there are growing pressures to cut funds for culture but we believe they must be rejected.

We believe that the moment for clear positions has come: we urge you to stand strong with the Creative Europe proposal and safeguard the proposed budget allocation despite any short-sighted criticism. It is a necessary sign of commitment to the future of European citizens as well as a necessary condition to continue building bridges and trust between the cultural sector and the European institutions.

Furthermore, culture designs new narratives for Europe, narratives that you have personally supported and nurtured. Unjustified cuts to the Creative Europe programme will not only undermine this endeavor but will also be incomprehensible to the cultural sector.

We supported the Commission's proposal for increased funding for culture and education and we publicly acknowledged its significance. We will definitely further support decisions ensuring that European culture, and the narrative for Europe that it underpins, continues to thrive and we ask that no choice be made that might undermine this.

Signed:

Mercedes Giovinnazzo, Director of Interarts and Chair of CAE's Executive Committee
Luca Bergamo, Secretary General, Culture Action Europe
Emina Visnic, Director, POGON
Chris Torch, Founder and Senior Associate, Intercult
Simone Dudt, Secretary General, European Music Council
Henrik Zipsane, Director, Jamtli & the Nordic Centre of Heritage Learning & Creativity
Alex Meszmer, member of the National Committee of Visarte
Katherine Heid, Network Manager, Opera Europa
Isabelle Battioni, General Delegate, ACCR – Association des centres culturels de rencontres
Ferdinand Richard, President, Roberto Cimetta Fund
Paul Collard, Chief Executive, Creativity, Culture and Education
Philippe Fanjas, Director, French Orchestras Association
Julek Jurowicz, Director, SMartBe
Péter Inkei, Director, The Budapest Observatory
Mary-Ann De Vlieg, Secretary General, IETM
Martin de Haan, President, CEATL (Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires)
Noel Kelly, Chief Executive Officer / Director, Visual Artists Ireland
Marie Le Sourd, Secretary General, On the Move

Paul Sergier, Director, VVC - 'Vereniging Vlaamse Cultuur – en gemeenschapscentra'
 Joost Heinsius, Manager Knowledge & Innovation, Cultuur-Ondernemen
 Tofoni Giambattista, Network Manager, EJA Europe Jazz Network
 Giovanni Sabelli Fioretti, Director, Perypezye Urbane
 Veronika Leiner, Managing director, Eurozine - Network of European Cultural Journals
 Jeremy Cox, Chief Executive, Association Européenne des Conservatoires
 Sylvine Bois-Choussy, In charge of Europe and International, Association des centres culturels de rencontres
 Ida Buren, CEO, Intercult
 Alexandra Büchler, Director of Literature Across Frontiers
 Cécile Peyronnet, Head of European Affairs, Institut français
 Siebe Weide, Chair, NEMO – The Network of European Museum Organisation
 Marijana Rimanic, Communication manager, POGON
 Mario. A. Caro, President, Res Artis
 Lena Bäckelin, Chairman of Jamtli foundation
 Bohl Charlotte, Coordinator, Banlieues d'Europe
 Per Bech Jensen, Executive Director, DSI Swinging Europe
 Angie Cotte, Secretary General, TheRoberto Cimetta Fund
 Yohann Floch, Coordinator, Circostrada Network
 Cécile Provôt, Director, Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe / CircusNext
 Thomas Renaud, Coordinator, Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe / CircusNext
 Mateja Lazar, Head of Cultural Contact Point Slovenia at Center for Contemporary Arts
 Klimentina Ilijevski, Director, Center for Media Activities
 Birgitta Persson, Secretary General, Trans Europe Halles
 Pavic Katarina, Coordinator of the Clubture Network
 Eline De Langhe, Editor, Cultuurnet Vlaanderen
 Klaus-Peter Böttge, President, EBLIDA
 Natalia Kaliada and Nicolai Khalezin, founding co-Artistic Directors, Belarus Free Theatre
 Gabriele Gerbasits, Chairwomen of the European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC)
 Sonja Greiner, Secretary General, the European Choral Association - Europa Cantat
 Marianne Versteegh, Algemeen secretaries, Vereniging Kunsten '92
 Andreas Kämpf, Vicepresident of the Deutsche Kulturrat
 Kathrin Deventer, Secretary General, European Festivals Association (EFA)
 Nia Davies, Communications Manager, Literature Across Frontiers
 Chrissie Faniadis, Non Serviam
 Birgitta Englin, CEO, Riksteatern
 Leen De Spiegelaere, Coordinator, Brussels Kunstenoverleg/ Réseau des Arts à Bruxelles
 Fromentin Marjorie, Resources manager, Banlieues d'Europe
 Assumpció Malagarriga, Presidenta de la Red de Organizadores de Conciertos Educativos, ROCE
 Erna Hennicot Schoepges, Councillor of State in Luxembourg & Vice President of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin
 Anna Galas, international cultural relations, Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute
 Tim Roberts, President of the European Federation of Circus Schools
 Maria Björk, secretary of culture, Central library of Uppsala
 Lovro Rumiha, Manager, BADco
 Paulo Lotta, Managing Director at CircusInfo
 Pavla Petrová, Director of the Arts and Theatre Institute in Prague
 Anaïs Lukacs, head of BAAPE – Centre for international cultural mobility – Cité internationale universitaire de Paris
 Eva Sæther, Associate Professor/ Reader, Lund University, Malmö Academy of Music
 Hytti Jukka, President, Q-teatteri
 Janez Janša, Director of Maska, Institute for publishing, artistic production and education
 Véronique Barcelo, director of the EPCC Saline Royale d'Arc et Senans
 Prof. dr Krzysztof Knittel, President of Polish Music Council
 Philippe Rixhon, Trustee, The Arya Foundation
 Floriane Cottet, Orchestras Manager, Verbier Festival
 Aleksandra Rekar, literary translator
 Jurij Krpan, Director of Kapelica Gallery Ljubljana
 Borut Kržišnik, composer
 Benoît Machuel, General Secretary, International Federation of Musicians
 Dusica Parezanovic, programme coordinator, Cultural Center REX

Gerrie Koops, Secretary General, European Music School Union
 Sandra Đorem, Content Manager, Contemporary Dance Network
 Carol Main, Director, Live Music Now Scotland
 Zvonimir Dobrovic, Director, Domino
 Gavosto Fabrizio, artistic director of Mirabilia International Circus & Performing Arts Festival
 Anja Schaluschke, Director, German Museums Association
 Darina Karova, Director, International Theatre Festival
 Tonči Kranjčević Batalić, Coordinator, QueerANarchive Collective
 Eva Zakova, Head of the Arts and Theatre Institute
 Sanja Tropp Frühwald, artistic director of Days of contemporary dance, Varaždin
 Renate Böck, President, European Federation of National Youth Orchestras
 Levä Kimmo, Secretary General, Finnish Museums Association
 Antonia Kuzmanić, Production manager of company "Room 100/Positive Force"
 Bogut Den, member of INPUT
 Kadin Natasha, President of organization MAVENA
 Tihomir Milovac, Museum Adviser, Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb
 Kral Pavol, President of International Association of Art Europe
 Camille de Wit, Director, Mains d'Œuvres
 Stuba Nikula, Managing director, Kaapelitehdas culture center
 Gerard Lohuis, Managing-director, P60 – Venue for Pop Culture and Media
 Mia Christersdotter Norman, director, Röda Sten Konsthall
 Mara Vujic, Art Director of International Festival of Contemporary Arts-City of Women
 Per Arne Alstad, General Manager, Tou scene, Centre of Contemporary Art
 Serge Basso de March, Director of Kulturfabrik Esch-Alzette
 René Penning, Head of administration of Kulturfabrik Esch-Alzette
 Stéphane Grosclaude, Coordinator of Interregional platform for cultural development
 Jean-Louis Comoretto, Director, ARPA Midi-Pyrénées
 Cvijetić, Srdjana, Art Workshop Lazareti
 Milan Zvada, Záhrada - Centrum nezávislej kultúry
 Grzegorz Rzepecki, Director of Workshops of Culture in Lublin
 Agata Will, Project manager, Workshops of Culture in Lublin
 Denis Haberkorn, Director of Mission Voix Alsace
 Moos van den Broek, Artistic Coordinator, Fresh Tracks Europe
 Benedikte Paaske, Director, Dansehallerne
 Charly Wassberg Borbos, President of the Swedish Amateur theatre association
 Petar Todprpv, Artistic directo, Pro Rodopi Art Centre/Bostina
 Dr Agnes Callamard, Executive Director, ARTICLE 19
 Fabienne Arsicaud, Coordinator, Fédération Arts Vivants et Départements
 Andrea Kozarova, Secretary of International Association of Art Europe
 Jean-Pierre Seyvos, CANOPÉEA Project Manager & composer
 Susanna Dagny H. Mohr, Cultur Manager, Kulturzentrum Schlachthof Bremen
 Daniel A. Kellerhals, President, European Orchestra Federation
 Branko Stark, President of The Croatian Choral Directors Association
 Velia Papa, Director, Inteatro- Teatro di innovazione e Ente di promozione della danza
 Timo Klemettinen, Managing Director of Association of Finnish Music Schools
 Paunovic Nevena, Program Assistant at Cultural Contact Point Serbia
 Nicolas Bertrand, Administrator, Image Aiguë
 Leila Nista, Project Manager, CCP Italy
 Maria Cristina Lacagnina, Project Officer, CCP Italy
 Marzia Santone, Project Officer, CCP Italy
 Jan Runge, CEO of the International Union of Cinemas
 Edgard Garcia, Director, Chroma/Zebrook
 Tamás Nagy, music teacher in Hungary
 Anders LIDÉN, Coordinator for Europe, International Association of Art
 Jacques Moreau, Director, Cefedem Rhône Alpes
 Jean Claude Wilkens, Director, Association nationale de chant choral "A cœur joie"
 Amelie Snyers, Office Manager at Village Underground
 Daniela Paes Leão and Merel Willemsen, founders of Museu da Crise
 Wlazel Agnieszka, Board member of River//Cities Platform Foundation
 Magdalena Gościniak, spokesperson and brand manager of Silesia Film Institute
 Andrzej Wojciechowski, cinematographer

Prof. Ulrich Rademacher, presidium member of EMU - European Music School Union
 Luca Forcucci, Artist at Lucalyptus
 Dragos NEAMU, president, National Network of Romanian Museums
 Ricardo Alves, Teatro da Palmilha Dentada
 Sančanin Marko, Director, Platforma 9,81
 Sylvie Brély, Déléguee Générale aux programmes artistiques, Fondation Royaumont
 Sarah van Lamsweerde, independent artist, founder of Stichting Tre Tigri and associate artist at Het Veem Theater in Amsterdam
 Péter Papolczy, President of the Association of Hungarian Literary Translators
 Fabio Ezechiele Sforzini director of the Theatre des grands chemins
 Jinn-Marethe Jansen, Managing Director, Transnational Art Production, TrAP
 Barbara Borcic, director of SCCA-Ljubljana, Center for Contemporary Arts
 Barbara Van Lindt, managing director of DasArts Master of Theatre
 Guido Helbling, President of the Swiss Federation Europa Cantat
 Jovanovic Arsic Ivana, Managing Director of Kulturis association
 Annette Wolfsberger, producer of Sonic Acts
 Alice Lamy, in charge of development at Animakt
 Wim De Vos, chairman of ICOM Belgium/Flanders
 Joanna Grotkowska, Director, Polish Music Council Foundation
 Dr. Sanjin Dragojević, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb
 Marko Brumen, freelance cultural manager
 Caroline van Niekerk, Emeritus Professor of Music Education, Univ of Pretoria
 Vuković Davor, president of Pula Film Factory – Pula
 Piero Niro, Member of the Board of Directors CIDIM - Comitato Nazionale Italiano Musica – Roma
 Patricia Adkins Chiti, President, Fondazione Adkins Chiti: Donne in Musica
 Phil Mullen, University lecturer, Goldsmiths College
 Domina Virginia, EVS european voluntary, Trans Europe Halles
 Benoit Vreux, Director, Centre des Arts scéniques
 Tigran Hekekyan, president of "Armenian Little Singers" International Association
 Auro Foxcroft, Director, Village Underground
 Natasa Zavolovsek, Director, Exodos Ljubljana
 Dr. Péter Deme, President of Pulszky Society - Hungarian Museum Association
 Solvita Sejane, Director, Latvian National Music Council
 Orests Silabriedis, Editor-in-chief of music magazine "Mūzikas Saule"
 Ieva Struka, Dramaturg, Latvian National Theatre
 Aivars Broks, Head of the Association of Latvian Musical Educational Establishments
 Inta Balode, editor-in-chief, Journal Dance
 Claude VERON, President, CIRCUS NEXT/ Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe
 Gundega Repše, writer, member of Latvian Culture Capital Foundation Council
 Lukáš Berberich, Kulturfabrik Slovakia
 Ugis Praulins, Chairman of the board, Ermanu Muiza Society
 Gunta Sproge, Pianist, professor, Head of Department of Chamber Ensemble and Piano
 Accompaniment Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music
 Ruta Kanteruka, Music teacher of the International School of Latvia, Latvian National Coordinator of the European Association for Music in Schools
 Luca Basilico, cultural manager, art director and university student
 Darka Radosavljevic Vasiljevic, Association Independent Culture Scene of Serbia
 Francesco De Rose, Art director, Centrale dell'Arte
 Barbara Stupica, freelance artist Slovenia
 Ivan Peternelj, Actor, Slovensko Mladinsko Theatre
 Šef Blaž, actor at Slovene Youth Theatre (Mladinsko)
 Ledo Prato, Segretario generale Associazione delle Città d'Arte e Cultura
 Tamás Nagy, music teacher from Hungary
 Dana Kalinova, Director, Svet knihy - Czech Republic
 Matej Stupica, independent artist
 Silveira, Rui, President of DBM Danse Bassin Méditerranée AISBL
 Cláudio Filipe Vieira, Performer, EIRA
 Barros Tengner Mariana, Associate artist of EIRA
 Alexandra Kowalski, assistant professor of sociology at the Central European University
 Sigrid Bousset, director of Passa Porta international house of literature
 Gary Pulsifer, Publisher, Arcadia Books Ltd

Srakar Andrej, president of Asociacija, Association of Arts and Culture NGOs and Freelancers
 Andreas Dyrdal, Professional Independent Dance-Artist
 Helga Stattler, Founder and general manager, Institut für Kunst und Wirtschaft, Austria
 Annalisa Pelizza, member of the Citoyens-Telestreet-Orfeo TV association for social promotion
 Adri de Vugt, President, European Association for Music in Schools
 Silvia Bottioli, Artistic Director of Santarcangelo dei Teatri
 Agnese Cimuska, CEO, Music Export Latvia
 Caitriona Sheedy, visual artist
 Lorraine Whelan, visual artist
 Lena Sköld, Chairman, UNGiKÖR - The association for children's and youth choirs in Sweden
 Melita Spahic Bezjak, Artistic Director, Karlovac Dance Festival & Center for Dance and Performance
 Art F.R.E.E. D.A.N.C.E
 Erin de Burca, visual artist
 Nevenka Koprivšek, director of Bunker Ljubljana, Festival Mladi levi and Stara elektrarna
 Pekica, Petra, Member of the Managing Board of the Alliance Operation City
 Claire Goddard, Secretary General of EMCY – European Union of Music Competitions for Youth
 Kostadinov Kostadin – Director – regional Museum of History – Dobrich
 Karin Lingl, Secretary General, Stiftung Kunstfonds
 Benedicte De Brouwer, project officer at Cultural Contact Point Belgium / Wallonia-Brussels
 Dr. Wolfgang Mchitsch, President of the Austrian Museums Organization
 Daniela Angelina Jelincic, Institute for Development and International Relations
 Dr. Helena Koenigsmarkova, director of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague
 Petar Ivanov Executive Director, Museum Association of Bulgaria
 Maria McKinney, Artist at Fire Station Artists' Studios
 Agnese Hermene, Lecturer, Latvian Academy of Culture
 Emmanuelle Garrot, Projects officer, Présence et Action culturelles
 Marianne Heemskerk, Visual artist and a member of Visual Artists Ireland
 Nenad Baric, President of Confusion - association for promoting audio-visual arts
 Maaria Manner, President of SULASOL, The Finnish Amateur Musicians' Association
 Linda Potyondi, Head of production, Krétakor
 Kurt Eichler, Head of the Cultural Department of the City of Dortmund and Member of the Executive Council of the Association for Cultural Policy in Germany
 Lola Joksimović, Head of Office/ CCP Serbia
 Dietrich Grosse, Director of Opera Butxaca I noves creacions Barcelona
 Jean-Jacques Dunkl, composer and pianist, President of EPTA Switzerland
 Marie Gaillard, Consultant, Association Via Regia - Europe, Cultures et Patrimoines
 Gina Moxley, Writer, Director and Theatre performer
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 Angelika Bartholomäi, Cives Mundi PR + Communication
 Liadain Kaminska, Student, Trinity College, Dublin
 Lurdes Fernández Malagón, Director, OFF LIMITS
 Helena Maffli, President, EMU
 Bettina Rizzi, General secretariat, Schweizerische Chorvereinigung/ Union Suisse des Chorales
 Robyn Marsack, Director, Scottish Poetry Library
 Aglaia Haritz, visual artist
 Katrin Spelinova, editor-in-chief, Schweizer Musikzeitung/Revue musicale Suisse
 Mirjam van Dootingh, CEO Dutch Association for Performing Arts
 Eva Pavlovičová, President of NGO EEE
 Marie Fol, Web-editor, SICA | Trans Artists | MEDIA Desk Netherlands
 Rebecca Radmore, community arts project manager and photographer
 Thomas Halter, President of the Swiss Catholic Church Music Association
 Eric Japenga, Managing director, Het Zuidelijk Toneel
 Rinus van Dijk, boardmember Mediascapers.nl
 Cristina Carrasco Chaler, actress
 Alessandro Grech La Rosa, Student of Architecture, Vice President of SACES - The Society for Architecture and Civil Engineering Students
 Ruth Hochuli, General Secretary from of the Association of Swiss Music Schools
 Jeronimo Cabrera Romero, Director of Council of Culture of Santa Cruz de Tenerife
 Mónica Samões, co-director of the Portuguese cultural association casaBranca
 Jankovic Sanja, instructor at BioArt Theatre Laboratories
 Toni J. Krein, Président de l' Association Suisse des Orchestres Professionnels

Harm van der Wal, Artist, Ambassador cultwildernis
Prof. jürg lanfranchi, departement musik, Schwerpunkte schulmusik
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Julijana Nemeti, CEO & Art Laboratory Director, Harp Art Lab
Sonja Soldo, program coordinator, POGON
Alex Adriaansens, Director of V2_ Institute for the Unstable Media
Rudolf Engländer, retired
Louise Bremner, President Arts & Cultural Association of Murcia
Maura Romano, Legal Representative of Melting Pro-Cultural Association
Rainer Hofmann, Artistic Director, SPRING Performing Arts Festival
Karlien Vanhoonacker, Communication/Press – Kaaithheater
Mrduljaš Doležal Petra, President of the Croatian Literary Translators' Association
Sigrid Niemer, Vorstand und Leitung Kommunikation
Wolfgang ZIEGLER, president of the Austrian Choral Association