

Prime Minister Miro Cerar
Office of the Prime Minister
Government of the Republic of Slovenia
gp.kpv@gov.si

Gothenburg/ Brussels, 16 October 2015

Letter of Support

Dear Sir,

As members and friends gathered in the framework of Culture Action Europe, the leading European voice representing the culture and creative sector, we hereby express our deepest concern over the situation in Slovenia, where spending for culture in the next two-year budget has reached a level where the existence of many cultural organisations is endangered and their culture programmes are seriously endangered.

Cultural infrastructure is easy to dismantle and destroy- and takes a long time to rebuild. Therefore, while we understand that financial challenges call upon efforts from all fields of society, we call upon you to reconsider this short-sighted political decision to cut the culture budget in a disproportionate manner.

The recent situation when Miha Turšič was striking against the unsustainable conditions in the field of culture is alarming.

Our concerns go beyond the aforementioned case as we are also worried about our future collaborations with our Slovenian members and partners, the cultural sector- and Slovenian civil society as a whole.

Slovenian cultural players and organisations have an important voice in the European space, and are key elements in your country's connections, integration, and sustainable social and economic development.

Having in mind the demand Miha Turšič, pleading for a 2% increase in spending on culture in the state budget, we strongly support our Slovenian partners in their efforts to persuade decision makers to take the international collaborations of the cultural sector and their obligations seriously.

We sincerely believe that you should acknowledge the importance of the proper funding of culture, and remain available for further discussion and support.

Sincerely,

MISTRIOTIS ALEXANDROS GREECE (ARTIST)

MERCEDES GIOVINAZZO, INTERARTS (SPAIN)

ANGIE COTTE, ROBERTO CIMETTA FUND (EURO-ARAB).

Katrin Oddsdóttir, Human Rights Lawyer, Iceland

CARL FORSBERG, GREEN PARTY, SWEDEN

SIMONE DMDT, EUROPEAN MUSIC COUNCIL, GERMANY

CLYMCNE CHRISTOFOROU, ISARD (UK) C. C. ~~UK~~

JULIA BELL, CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ARTS NETWORK (UK) ~~J. Bell~~

Marionne Versteegh, Kunsten '02 NL ~~M. Versteegh~~

Mary Ann DeVlieg, freelance ~~M. DeVlieg~~

ALESSANDRO RANCANI, IRC EC. ~~A. Rancani~~

Bel Ouid, AELC (Catalonia) ~~B. Ouid~~

Sarah de Heusch, SMart ~~S. de Heusch~~

MYRIAM MAZZONI, CITY of GOTHENBURG, ~~M. Mazzoni~~

LUCA BERLANDO, CULTURE ACTION EUROPE ~~L. Berlando~~