

**RESOLUTION
REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF UNPAID AMATEURS IN TEATRO REAL**

The European group of the International Federation of Actors (EuroFIA) brings together performers' unions, guilds and professional associations from across the EU, EFTA and neighbouring countries, representing tens of thousands of performers, including dancers, across Europe.

FIA's European group, meeting on the 8th of November in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, was appalled to learn that the *Teatro Real* of Madrid had extended an offer to members of the Association of the Friends of the *Teatro Real* to participate in their upcoming opera production "*Idomeneo, re di Creta*". The *Teatro Real* is looking for 100 "volunteers" to take part in 9 performances and 18 rehearsals of this professional production, proposed as a "unique experience" for opera lovers.

By allowing non-professionals to perform without payment in a professional production, intended for commercial exploitation, the *Teatro Real* endangers the sustainability of the Opera and of the artists that make it. The cost of this "unique experience" is high for the professional performers whose livelihood depends on opportunities to perform. This initiative, proposed in a professional context, in no way corresponds to the legitimate right of amateur performers to be able to perform in public. Rather it presents a serious threat to the professionalism of the sector and disregards the very skilled and trained professionals who work in it.

Should it proceed as proposed, this initiative would constitute a dangerous precedent regarding the engagement of unpaid amateurs in professional productions, especially coming from a theatre in receipt of significant public funding.

Such an initiative runs counter all the values that the International Federation of Actors defends. It also runs counter to the recently published New European Agenda for Culture, which particularly highlights the importance of fair remuneration for artists and creators in the interest of sustainable Cultural and Creative Industries. Thus the EuroFIA group strongly condemns this initiative and asks the *Teatro Real* of Madrid to abandon the proposed initiative and to respect the professionalism of performers working in Opera.

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 8th November 2018