



EAEA response to Pearle* proposals of March 19th, 2020, regarding the situation of the Live Performance Sector in the context of the Covid-19

March 30th, 2020

EAEA has taken note of the document entitled “*The Live Entertainment Sector calls on the EU and governments to provide targeted measures following the impact of Covid-19 on live events*”, dated March 19th, 2020, that Pearle* has widely circulated since its publication.

We acknowledge that some of the proposals listed in this text are relevant. We are, however, surprised and disappointed that the organisation representing the employers in the European live performance sector published a statement on behalf of the whole sector, without bothering to consult or even inform its social partners.

This omission is all the more problematic since some proposals in the text directly undermine the interests of hundreds of thousands of workers, permanent or freelance, whose situation is at least as vulnerable as that of their employers.

Yet, the current context requires, more than ever, solidarity and concord amongst all players in a sector that is severely weakened by the health emergency.

EAEA firmly opposes three of the proposals listed on page 4 of this document, which advocate for an exemption or a postponement of social contributions, increased work flexibility and reduced tariffs for the use of fixed performances protected by copyright and neighbouring rights.

We would like to remind our social partners that

1. The social contributions paid by the employers are essential to secure social protection – all too often insufficient – for workers who suffer increasingly precarious employment conditions. Any temporary reduction in employers’ charges should be fully compensated via an adequate mechanism;
2. Workers in the live performance sector have been impacted by massive cuts in jobs and precariousness in permanent employment after the 2008 financial crisis. Any measure aimed at facilitating the dismissal of performers and technicians working in permanent ensembles or institutions would be unfair, socially irresponsible and, from an artistic point of view, counterproductive;
3. Copyright and related rights provide authors and performers with a remuneration that, for most of them, is essential to their livelihoods. Suggesting that they should be deprived of these revenues, with no regard for the applicable legal framework, is unacceptable.

We, therefore, denounce this statement, which wrongly presents itself as voicing the sector’s demands. We also call on Pearle* to amend its position without delay, in the light of the comments above.

The European Arts and Entertainment Alliance (EAEA) brings together the three trade union federations EuroFIA, FIM et EuroMEI. It represents workers in the arts and entertainment sector in EU Member States, as well as in two committees of the European sectorial social dialogue. EAEA is a member of ETUC.

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