RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES REGARDING ACTIONS ON COVID 19 IN THE LIVE PERFORMANCE AND AUDIOVISUAL SECTORS

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 virtually on the 19th of November, noted with grave concern the report delivered by its affiliate AUT Turkey, regarding the policy response to the Covid 19 pandemic in the Live Performance and Audiovisual sectors in Turkey.

The EuroFIA group recalled:
- That FIA and its sister federations FIM and UNI MEI have issued a series of joint statements on policy measures needed to mitigate the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the arts and entertainment sector globally, with a focus on income support for the sectoral workforce and on the negotiation and strict application of back to work protocols by social partners;
- That the recent resolution by the European Parliament on a “Cultural Recovery for Europe” calls on Member States to earmark 2% of their recovery and resilience budget to the cultural and creative sector; a call echoed in a recent joint statement issued by the pan-European community of 110 networks and associations, representing the creative and cultural sector across Europe. This reflects the level of investment needed to allow the sector to survive the crisis that has impacted it so violently.

The EuroFIA Group therefore resolved to urge the Turkish authorities to take urgent action to ensure the survival of the creative and cultural sector in Turkey and its skilled workforce:

In the audiovisual production sector, it is vital to fully and immediately apply special health and safety standards, as described in guidelines prepared by trade unions, producers and other sectoral actors. These must be upheld via legal obligations and a particular COVID-19 protocol for TV-Cinema and Commercial Settings, including obligatory PCR testing at least twice a week (under the responsibility and payment of the producers, or, where smaller producers do not have the resources to allow this, with the support of the public authorities). Work in the audiovisual sector is vital to ensure some continuity and work opportunities for the sectoral workforce, but is only possible on the basis of rigorous health and safety standards.

In the field of Live Performance, ensuring the survival of the sector and its ability to recover after the crisis is key. In Turkey, this requires removing the current legal impediments and making the necessary adjustments to grant non-reciprocal direct financial aid to live performance companies to ensure their survival, as well as ensuring a replacement income reaches all artists and performers in the sector, regardless of employment status. This could include a “basic income scheme” for individual artists and performers who have been heavily hurt by the effects of COVID-19 crisis.

Online EuroFIA Meeting, 19th November 2020