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

FOR THE ATTENTION OF Mr. Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of Spain

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 November 19, 2020, was pleased to learn from its Spanish affiliate of the collaboration your government has had with them to develop measures to support cultural workers and the sustainability of their sector, in light of the lockdown that caused the closure of all their workplaces.

The group noted with interest the work that is ongoing in Spain to develop the Status of the Artist as a legal framework that would provide better living conditions for cultural workers, aiming to offer a sustainable sector, where artists can earn a decent living from their craft, by addressing important issues like, among other, intermittent working patterns and social security, access to training, professional transition, etc. This is a key priority Europe-wide, as noted in the recent European Parliament Resolution on “A Cultural Recovery for Europe”.

Against this encouraging back-drop, the EuroFIA Group therefore resolved to urge your government take urgent action to also ensure the survival of the creative and cultural sector in Spain and its skilled workforce by ensuring a sufficient level of investment to mitigate the impact of the current crisis:

The same resolution on a “Cultural Recovery for Europe” also calls on Member States to earmark 2% of their Recovery and Resilience National Plan budget for the cultural and creative sector; a call that was strongly 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 urgently needed to allow the sector to survive the crisis that has impacted it so violently.

The EuroFIA group therefore deeply regrets that the earmarked budget for "Culture and Sports" in the Spanish Recovery and Resilience Plan is currently at just half of the floor recommended by the EU, which in turn is intended to support only the Cultural and Creative sector.

While understanding the huge difficulties you are facing, in this extraordinary situation we ask for an appropriate support not only to cultural institutions of all kinds, but also to cultural workers, that make culture possible for people. Like many other citizens, artists and other cultural workers are facing very difficult moments, often falling between different
social safety nets due to their varying employment statuses and intermittent working patterns. They shouldn't be left behind.

November, 19, 2020