

ECA

European Council of Artists Conseil Européen des Artistes

For organisations representing professional artists, authors and performers
Pour les organisations représentant les artistes, auteurs et artistes-interprètes professionnels

To the Governments and Parliaments of Europe

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Dear Sirs

The European Council of Artists (ECA), associating umbrella organisations of artists from 25 countries across Europe, in view of the recent adoption of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions urges you to support this convention on all possible levels.

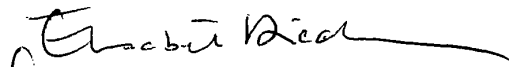
This very important document needs to be ratified and implemented as soon as possible. National legislation must be adapted to the provisions and the spirit of the convention, as necessary. We are aware that it only takes ratification from 30 out of 148 countries to make the Convention text binding. Appreciating the fact that all 25 EU countries spoke in one voice in favour of global cultural diversity, and assuming that this will automatically guarantee at least 25 ratifications, the ECA – representing European artists in all fields of artistic expression – assures you that we on our part will do our utmost – both locally and globally – to urge ratification from as many countries as possible. This has been one rare occasion where legislators, NGOs and artists alike have worked for the same goal and thereby managed to move mountains.

At the same time we would like to point out that no commitments whatsoever should be undertaken under the WTO negotiation process that could affect negatively the provisions and the spirit of the convention.

Trusting that you share our concerns with the future impact of this all-important document adopted by 148 countries at the UNESCO General Conference in Paris in October 2005, we thank you in advance for everything you will be able to do in the best interest of culture, art and artists at this equally important stage of the process, both nationally and globally.

On behalf of ECA,

Yours sincerely,


Ludwig Laher
President

c.c. The Cultural Committee of the European Union