

ORIGINAL
DANSK KUNSTNERRÅD

Kulturudvalget
KUU alm. del - Bilag 42
Offentligt

Kulturminister Carina Christensen
Folketingets Kulturudvalg

København, d. 9. november 2009

Hermed fremsendes det Europæiske Kunstnerråd ECAs udtalelse om
Huskunstnerordningen, som blev vedtaget som opfølgning til ECAs konference
"Experiencing the Arts - Artists' Contribution to Creative Thinking and European
Innovation" i sidste uge.

Med venlig hilsen

Franz Ernst,
formand for Dansk Kunstnerråd

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Resolution from ECA's Annual General Assembly 2009 concerning the termination of the Danish Artists-in-Schools Programme

ECA (European Council of Artists) held its Annual Conference in Floriana, Malta. Experiencing the Arts | *artists' contribution to creative thinking and European innovation* ran from the 30th of October to the 1st November. The importance of arts at all levels in education was discussed by an impressive line-up of speakers, see enclosed initial report.

At its Annual General Assembly, which followed the conference, delegates were informed by Danish member, The Council of Danish Artists, of a decision by the Danish Government to discontinue its Artists-in-Schools Programme, that includes children in kindergarten through secondary education.

The European Council of Artists - an umbrella for interdisciplinary artists' councils and professional artists' associations from 26 countries across Europe and representing an estimated 200,000 professional artists - while recognising the impact of the current financial situation - deplores the short-sighted nature of this ill-advised decision. The Danish Artists-in-Schools Programme (*Huskunstnerordningen*) which had run for the past 5 years has been both cost-effective and an outstanding success, bringing children of all ages into contact with art and artists of many disciplines. This decision, which flies in the face of educational and social research, which supports such interventions, is all the more regrettable coming as it does during the European year of Innovation and Creativity and shows scant regard for the promotion of artistic and cultural education as an asset for European society of the future.

The European Council of Artists on behalf of its members gathered for its Annual General Assembly, formally calls on the Danish government to reverse its decision to terminate or reduce funding for its Artists-in-Schools Programme.

Michael Burke
president

Floriana, Malta | 2 November 2009

ECA ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 2009

Valetta – Malta | 30th October – 1st November 2009

EXPERIENCING THE ARTS

Artists' Contribution to Creative Thinking and European Innovation

INITIAL REPORT

The ECA conference, Experiencing the Arts | artists' contribution to creative thinking and European innovation, held in Malta concluded on Sunday 1st November 2009. Over two days of presentations and debates, a number of speakers highlighted the fact that competencies and qualifications requested by innovative enterprises and sectors correspond to those used by artists in their processes for creation or performance.

Edward de Bono explained the principles of lateral thinking and showed how non-linear processes may lead to valid solutions on problems in the different sectors of the society.

Philippe Kern, KEA Europe Affairs, discussed the findings of the KEA study "*The Impact of Culture to Creativity*" with the audience, the majority of them artists. The study recommends, among other things, that policy makers make art and culture-based activities an integral element of their educational and learning strategies.

Edward Scicluna, newly elected MEP, Malta, and vice chairman of the Monetary Committee, spoke on the artists' contribution to the European economy and underlined the need to stimulate creativity in basic education, as a measure to achieve the Lisbon strategy in a long-term perspective.

Ion Caramitru, actor and director of the National Theatre in Romania, gave a personal account on how, through theatre, artists can play a role in the transformation of societies, to a great extent illustrated in his country.

Danish composer **Pia Raug** called for the inclusion of artists' rights in the curricula of tertiary level education institutions and discussed how artists can play a role in political processes.

Maria Badia i Cutchet MEP, Spain, presented her report "*Artistic Studies in the European Union*", which was approved by the European Parliament earlier this year, and proposed co-ordination of efforts in order to strengthen arts education at all levels.

Cecilia Keaveney, Senator, Ireland and member of the Council of Europe's Committee for Culture, Science and Education, presented this committee's report on

Cultural Education: the promotion of cultural knowledge, creativity and intercultural understanding through education, concluding that, "Cultural and artistic means of education should become an essential part of formal education, in particular at school level."

Examples of good practice were presented by Danish authors **Ida-Marie Rendtorff** and **Daniel Zimakoff**, who have met their readers in primary schools and encouraged them to write their own stories as a part of the Danish *Programme for children and young people meeting artists*, and by ECA president **Michael Burke** on how the teaching of violin at St. Agnes' Primary School in Crumlin, Dublin is changing a whole community.

It was therefore rather paradoxical that the conference participants, approximately 60 artists and artists' representatives from 20 European countries could report, that arts' education at primary and secondary level has been reduced in many countries, and that arts-in-school programmes are being cut.

The conference was moderated by Austrian author **Ludwig Laher**, and arranged in co-operation with ECA Malta and Zararti Cultural Foundation, with support from the Ministry of Education and Culture, Air Malta, Grand Hotel Excelsior and the Strickland Foundation.

On Monday 2nd November 2009, the proposed cuts were discussed by the General Assembly of the European Council of Artists - an umbrella for artists' councils and organisations from 26 European countries. The ECA General Assembly decided to appeal to the national governments to take into account the recommendations by researchers and political institutions to promote artistic and cultural education as an asset for the European societies of the future and, in so doing, reconsider any decision to cut or reduce the funding of Arts-in-Schools Programmes.



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Ministry of Education, Culture & Youth | Malta
Air Malta and the Grand Hotel Excelsior
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