

Dear minister,

COVID-19 brought about an unprecedented crisis worldwide and in Europe. What is needed now is European solidarity amongst all countries in Europe and beyond. Investment to overcome this crisis is required and should not stop at borders. Solidarity, freedom and democratic principles are what is at stake and what has to be protected.

We appreciate that the cultural ministers will address how the cultural and creative sectors are affected by the COVID-19 crisis and we want to bring to your attention two issues that have been raised with the European Commission already. On 20 March Culture Action Europe sent a [letter](#) to Commissioner Gabriel and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture to call for flexibility for current Creative Europe beneficiaries and to call for the EU to support the cultural and creative sectors.

As an active member of Culture Action Europe and a pan-European music network, we are amongst the signatories of this letter, which highlights that projects and networks funded by Creative Europe have been heavily impacted by the Coronavirus putting the beneficiaries at financial risk. We urge you to support measures to allow beneficiaries flexibility regarding the eligibility period, eligibility of costs or replacement of activities.

In her answer, Commissioner Gabriel also addresses the possibility of sharing our concerns with you in your upcoming meeting and we would like to call on you to take our requests and concerns seriously even if this requires changes to the legal framework.

Additionally, we support the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative of the EU and we call on you to also make this initiative accessible for the cultural and creative sectors. In this respect we explicitly support the appeal by Sabine Verheyen, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education in the European Parliament in her [statement from 27 March](#).

The music and culture sector are very active in these times and have formulated a number of statements addressing the effects of COVID-19 on their work. You can find a [selection of statements](#) on the EMC website, which we are constantly updating.

We urge for your support on these matters within the Council and on national level. We remain at your disposal.

With kind regards,

Simone Dudt & Ruth Jakobi

Secretaries General of the European Music Council

*The EMC implements a dual leadership model with Ruth Jakobi and Simone Dudt equally holding the position of Secretary General*