

ARTS FESTIVALS'



Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue

AN INITIATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION



Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue

Gent, 17 December 2007

Dear colleagues,

We herewith would like to share with you the results of the round table of European festivals with European Commissioner for Culture, Mr Ján Figel', which took place on 6 December in Brussels. This intense face-to-face consultation was centred around the involvement of arts festivals in the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008.

The meeting organised by the European Festivals Association succeeded to round up the preparatory activities in the run up towards 2008 and prepare the launch and proceedings of the 'Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue' which will be presented and signed in Ljubljana on 8 January 2008.

In the presence of 15 festival directors, the day offered a unique opportunity to discuss and confirm the importance of arts festivals in the development of intercultural competences. The Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue has been applauded and welcomed by all participants. There has been a common agreement that the Declaration is the starting point of a more intense engagement of festivals in 'intercultural dialogue'. As historic pioneers in inter-national' cooperation, festivals are now acting as leaders in 'inter-cultural' cooperation prominently reflecting on issues such as migration and cultural diversity through their programmes and special activities. Signatory parties to the Declaration which will travel across Europe and beyond are invited to 'prove' their 'intercultural profile' by sharing best practices and projects. These are gathered by EFA on a special webpage dedicated to the year. Furthermore, festivals confirmed their readiness to give visibility to the Year being excellent mediators which bring concepts and ideas to millions of European citizens.

The peace-keeping quality of festivals in the different regions of Europe led to the proposal to highlight, during the signing ceremony on 8 January in Ljubljana, festivals in the ex-Yugoslavian countries (EFA has members in all these states). Ján Figel' welcomed the engagement of festivals and EFA and confirmed his willingness to sign up the Declaration on 8 January in Ljubljana.

We are looking forward to launching the Declaration in Ljubljana in January and to the activities and incentives given through the year for a long-term engagement in Intercultural Dialogue!

Hugo De Greef
EFA Secretary General



Programme

Participants:

European Commission

1. Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism
2. Bernd Biervert, Member of the Cabinet
3. Monica Urian de-Sousa, Policy officer DG EAC

European Festival Representatives

1. Joanna Baker, Director Edinburgh International Festival
2. Michelina Borsari, Director Festival Filosofia Modena
3. Jan Briers, Delegated Director Flanders Festival
4. Darko Brlek, General Director Ljubljana Festival, President EFA
5. Roberto Franchini, President Festival Filosofia Modena
6. Enrique Gamez Ortega, Director Festival International Granada
7. Yesim Güner Oymak, Director International Istanbul Music Festival
8. Michael Herrmann, Director Rheingau Musik Festival
9. Henk Heuvelmans, Director Gaudeamus Festival
10. Gintauatas Kevisas, Director Vilnius International Festival
11. Emilia Levi, Deputy Director Santander International Festival
12. Massimo Mercelli, Director Emilia Romagna Festival
13. José Luis Ocejo, Director Santander International Music Festival
14. Ibrahim Spahic, Director Sarajevo Winter Festival
15. Per Kvistad Uddu, Director Trondheim Festival
16. Monique Veaute, Director Roma Europa Festival

European Festivals Association

1. Hugo De Greef, Secretary General EFA
2. Kathrin Deventer, Assistant to the Secretary General
3. Nathalie Dert, EFA Office Manager
4. Rani T'Kindt, EFA Management Assistant

Programme of the Day:

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| 11.30 – 12.00 | Arrival of Participants – Registration and Welcome Coffee |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | Preparation of the consultation meeting with Mr Ján Figel'
-Presentation of the Arts Festivals' Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue
-Preparation of the official signing ceremony of the Declaration
-Presentation and discussion on possible projects in 2008 |
| 12.30 – 14.30 | Working Lunch |
| 14.30 | 10-min walk to the European Commission,
Berlaymont Building, Wetstraat 200 |
| 14.45 | Arrival at the European Commission, Berlaymont Building
Security Check |
| 15.00- 16.30 | Meeting with Mr Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Culture,
Education, Training and Sports
- Opening and welcome address by Mr Ján Figel', European
Commissioner
- Introduction by Mr Darko Brlek, EFA President and by Mr Hugo De
Greef, EFA Secretary General
- Statement and explanation on the European Year of Intercultural
Dialogue
- Open Discussion: Exchange of opinions with festival representatives |
| 16.30 | Official Photo with Mr Ján Figel' |
| 16.45 | Departure |
| 17.00 | Drink and reception at the invitation of EFA
at Martin's Central Park Hotel
Departure of participants |