

ARTS FESTIVALS'



Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue

AN INITIATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION



European Commissioner Ján Figel' meets European Festivals

3 May, 3.00pm - 4.30pm

Participants

European Commission

1. Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism
2. Sara Wilmet, Directorate General Education and Culture (DG EAC)
3. Fabienne Metayer, Directorate General Education and Culture (DG EAC)
4. Bernd Biervert, Directorate General Education and Culture (DG EAC)

European Festival Representatives

1. Vincent Baudriller, Director Festival d'Avignon, France
2. Nicholas Kenyon, Director BBC Proms, Great Britain
3. Dr Joachim Sartorius, Artistic Director Berliner Festspiele, Germany
4. Per Boye Hansen, Festival Director Bergen International Festival, Norway
5. Rose Fenton, Moderator FIT (Festivals In Transition)
6. Risto Nieminen, Director Helsinki Festival, Finland
7. Darko Brlek, Managing and Artistic Director, EFA President Ljubljana Festival, Slovenia
8. Michael Herrmann, Director Rheingau Musik Festival, Germany
9. Monique Veaute, General and Artistic Director RomaEuropa, Italy
10. Gintautas Kevisas, Festival Director Vilnius Festival, Lithuania
11. Jan Briers, Executive Director Festival van Vlaanderen, Belgium
12. Wolfgang Wais, Managing Director Wiener Festwochen, Austria
13. Henk Heuvelmans, Director International Gaudeamus Music Weeks, The Netherlands

European Festivals Association

14. Hugo De Greef, Secretary General EFA
15. Kathrin Deventer, Assistant to the Secretary General

Programme of the day

- 12.30 Preparatory working lunch of festival representatives in the Residence Palace/International Press Centre Brussels, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 155, Brussels, Belgium
Welcome desk open from 12.15pm onwards
- 14.30 10 - minutes walk to the Berlaymont Building, European Commission
- 14.45 Security check



- 15.00 Meeting with Mr Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism
- Welcome address by Mr Ján Figel', European Commissioner
 - Introduction of EFA by Darko Brlek, EFA President and Hugo De Greef, EFA Secretary General
 - Statement and explanation on EU cultural policies by Mr Ján Figel'
 - Open discussion: Exchange of opinions with the festival representatives
- 16.30 Official group photo taken by the European Commission services
- 16.45 Drink at the Residence Palace Brussels with festival representatives
- 18.00 End of reception

Summary of the Conclusions

Having welcomed the guests, Mr Figel' briefly presented the main policy areas and programmes the European Commission will develop and implement in the upcoming years. Those will in particular include the preparation of 2008, Year of Intercultural dialogue.

The most important conclusion to be drawn from the informal meeting is the will and the availability of both partners to enter a phase of closer co-operation between the European Commission and leading European festivals represented by the European Festivals Association.

What clearly resulted is that festivals in their growing number and immense visibility should play a more prominent role within the European integration context. Their impact in cultural but also in political and social terms should be valued and exploited. As festivals are ideal carriers of the idea that 'Europe is also and by all means a cultural project', concepts will be developed on how festivals can expose this quality in a visible way. In concrete, an more intense consultation phase with the festivals will be launched, focused on tangible ways and tools to generate a sense of 'European-ness' among the European citizens and to contribute to the visibility of the year 2008 - Year of intercultural dialogue at the level of communication but also at the level of programming.

Festivals as important partners will be involved by means of EFA.