

## THE EUROPEAN LIVE MUSIC FORUM



**THE EUROPEAN LIVE MUSIC FORUM (ELMF)** was launched on March 10th 2005 by sixteen national and international associations from the European live music communities. On December 6th 2005 the ELMF was officially recognised by the Ministry of Justice (Federale Overheidsdienst Justitie) as a legally constituted international non-profit organisation.

The purpose of the ELMF is to give a strong and clear voice to the various industry and cultural communities with direct and legitimate interests in the European live music sector and thus establish itself as a speaking partner for these communities, in particular towards the EU Commission and parliament.

The ELMF is to campaign for the removal of all obstacles, formal and informal, that hinder the growth of the live music market within the EU/EEA. To this end the ELMF seeks the full implementation of the «single market» concept within the live music sector.

The ELMFs' general goals are:

- To be recognised by the EU Commission as a «speaking partner» for the live music communities in Europe.
- To encourage the development of live music as part of both the cultural and economic life of the Union.
- To inform the Commission of the likely impact on the live music industry of any directives or policies.
- To make recommendations on issues which could benefit from EU/EEA action.
- To encourage the awareness within the Union of the industry as an economic force, in terms of economic output and its contribution to employment.
- To demonstrate the importance of live music to the social, economic and personal welfare of the people within the EU.
- To coordinate existing research on the economic, health and social costs and benefits of live music to the local, national and European economies.
- To initiate «best practices» within the EU especially with regards to the new accession and candidate states.
- To encourage the appreciation of the varied local music of Europe throughout the Union and the rest of the world.

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## **ELMF WORKING GROUPS**

Working groups, charged with developing specific issues of strategic concern to the live music communities, is the primary working tool established within the ELMF.

Amongst presently established working groups are:

### **GENERAL POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INDUSTRY POLICY ISSUES IMPACTING ON THE MUSIC INDUSTRIES**

The working group is charged with monitoring general political and cultural industry policy issues impacting on the music industries, establishing contacts with potential partners and other concerned parties – including copyright and collection societies within the sector in order to prepare for future coordination and constructive working relationships with the Commission, the Directorates and the Parliament in Brussels.

### **MOBILITY AND SPECIAL NATIONAL WITHHOLDING TAXATIONS OF ARTISTS**

The special national withholding taxation of artists is a major obstacle for mobility and the establishment of a fair single market concept with the EU. Social Security and VAT standardisation are also issues under discussion.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

This working group monitors health and safety issues of the live music sector – including the need for harmonised legislation on noise limitations, safety codes, crowd control, and certification procedures from a safety perspective – interfacing with other concerned parties such as the ILMC Health and Safety Group.

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY, VISA AND WORK PERMIT ISSUES**

The group is focused on visa and work permit issues, involving both artists and production services – incoming and outgoing to/from the European Union including emerging practices of additional regulation by establishing requirements for work certificates.

The working group will also address issues related to the mobility of European artists outside the EU/EEA and the mobility of non-European artists into EU/EEA, including visa issues outside of Europe for European artists – especially the US, ensuring market access of European artists to non-European markets.

### **THE EU SERVICE DIRECTIVES**

The working group monitors the development of EU directives on services in the internal market and the potential impact on the various issues and concerns of the music sector.

The group also drafts comments to the EU commission, the EU Parliament and other interested parties, participating whenever possible in discussion forums and conferences on relevant matters and bring any matters of particular concern to the attention of the ELMF Board and the membership.

