



STATEMENT

on the revision of CITES Resolution Conf. 16.8 on frequent cross-border non-commercial movements of musical instruments

Pearle* - Live Performance Europe and the EILA welcome the opportunity to submit comments to the proposal of the Austrian CITES authority to add an agenda item to the CoP17 with the aim to discuss and revise CITES resolution conf. 16.8.

There is an urgent need to improve the travelling with musical instruments containing protected species such as ivory, tortoise shell, rosewood, lizard skin or others and ease CITES related rules for the music sector. **We therefore support the initiative to amend resolution conf. 16.8** on frequent cross-border non-commercial movements of musical instruments at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Travelling with musical instruments containing CITES protected species means another layer of administration for musicians, music ensembles, groups and orchestras when preparing a tour and it implies financial and organisational burdens. In addition, the music community is getting reluctant to take valuable bows and historical musical instruments to the United States due to unpredictable practices of U.S. customs services.

Pearle* and EILA are concerned about this development as it ultimately has an impact on the quality of performances and on international cultural exchanges at large without adding a benefit in the fight against wildlife trafficking. We fully support the goals of the international community on combating illegal cross-border trade in ivory and other protected species. However, it is widely acknowledged that travelling with musical instruments does not contribute and is not related to the poaching crisis and the **principle of proportionality** should be recalled in this context.

The European music community needs a simple, reasonable and practical procedure when travelling with instruments containing protected species. We therefore call on the European Commission to take the Austrian draft Review of Resolutions into account and consider the following for the agenda of the CoP17:

- Musical instruments containing specimens of CITES-listed species often are **national cultural treasures** – measures should be proportionate to their conservation benefit.

- Parties are to be encouraged to apply a simple procedure in an **uniform manner** without implementing stricter domestic measures. Harmonisation of measures related to the travelling with musical instruments containing CITES-protected specimens is vital for the music community in order to foster international cultural exchange and allow high level music activities in whatever country.
- The **reference to "personally-owned" is to be removed** as it would allow orchestras to be in charge of all musical instruments and better organise the travelling of those instruments. They could be carried in cargo instead of hand-luggage.
- Sophisticated control procedures at each border should be replaced by a mechanism which would allow musicians and orchestras to pass through the green channel and only show their certificates "**on request**".

In annex to this statement, please find the comments of the League of American Orchestras and the American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers on 'Proposed Resolutions, Decisions, and Agenda Being Considered for Discussion at CoP17'.

The **EILA**, the International Association of Violin and Bow Makers and founded in 1950, represents the interests of some 170 members who have their workplaces all over the world. The Entente was established with the aim of bringing together master craftsmen on the basis of friendship and exchange and for taking any steps deemed pertinent to defending their working conditions, developing understanding of their art, perfecting teaching methods for their students and combining the strengths and talents of each member in order to promote a revival in the art of violin and bow making. Violin or bow makers certified by the Entente Internationale are sure to offer the highest level of professionalism for all requirements related to string instruments. Instrument or bow maintenance, regular repairs, tonality and also restoration of the most prestigious pieces of our instrumental heritage.

www.eila.org

PEARLE* - Live Performance Europe, is the 'Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe'. Pearle* represents through its members associations the interests of more than 7000 theatres, theatre production companies, orchestras and music ensembles, opera houses, ballet and dance companies, festivals, producers, comedy, variety, circus and other organisations within the performing arts sector across Europe. This includes profit as well as non-profit organisations, ranging from micro-enterprises to companies over 250 employees. Pearle* is recognised by the European Commission as a European sectoral social partner, representing the employers in the European sectoral social dialogue committee live performance.

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