

Contributions to the Cultural Forum resulting from an informal meeting of member organisations of the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH) and of Portuguese cultural organisations and networks* (Lisbon, 25 September 2007)

- We support the Communication in pushing the arts and culture higher up the European agenda.
- The arts and culture have intrinsic value and can support other objectives if they are first valued in themselves.
- Creative processes should be valued as much as creative products.
- The potential of article 151.4 needs to be fully realised – it is a basic foundation of the Communication's objectives.
- Mobility is another central pillar upon which all three objectives of the Communication must be strongly based.
- In addition to managerial skills, the sector needs support to enhance its capacity to mediate between cultural operators and the political, social and economic fields.
- The cultural sector is ready for the challenge to structure itself and has the ability to do so. Non-hierarchical structures will link organisations and networks, and favour horizontal and regular communication, as well as broad representation.
- A variety of tools should be developed to ensure the quality of the structured dialogue between the arts and culture sector and the European Union, and to make sure that all voices are heard.
- We support a flexible and adaptable Open Method of Coordination, which will involve all actors at local, regional, national and European levels. All documents and results must be freely accessible to all parties to guarantee transparency, ongoing learning and the significant presence of civil society.

* REDE – Association of contemporary dance and transdisciplinary structures; PLATEIA – Association of Performing Arts Professionals; Cassefaz, Espectáculos, Vídeos e Publicações Culturais, Lda. / Academia de Produtores Culturais; OBSCENA – Revista de Artes Performativas.

EFAH Member organisations: ARS BALTICA, BKJ – German Federation for Cultural Youth Education, Cultural Contact Point Germany, Euclid, European Festivals Association (EFA), European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA), European Music Council (EMC), IETM – Informal European Theatre Meeting, Kulturpont Iroda, Kunstenaars & Co, Mouvement, Pearle*.