



Mariya GABRIEL

*Commissioner for Innovation, Research,
Culture, Education and Youth*

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Dear representatives of the music sector in Europe,

Thank you for your joint letter to the Commission in which you express your profound concerns about the COVID-19 crisis and how it affects the music ecosystem, its organisations, artists and professionals.

President Ursula von der Leyen and Vice-President Margaritis Schinas have asked me to reply on their behalf.

We not only share your deep concern about this unprecedented crisis and the impact it has on all those active in the field of music, we also appreciate that the sector speaks with one voice and has been very quick in helping to assess the implications of the pandemic and the related measures needed to alleviate the situation for the music ecosystem.

We also agree that the crisis requires ambitious and coordinated responses at all levels; and here the Commission and the Member States have been acting swiftly. On 8 April 2020, the Commission and the 27 European Union Ministers of Culture held a videoconference to discuss all the measures taken by the Member States and the Commission. The solutions put in place aim at supporting the cultural sectors, safeguarding the well-being of our citizens by making cultural content accessible to them and helping businesses and individuals within sectors who are particularly affected. Together with Vice-president Jourova and Commissioner Breton I took part in that meeting which was an opportunity to present the Commission's current and foreseen measures, many of them addressing the concerns expressed in your joint letter.

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The solutions presented included, among others, applying maximum flexibility in the implementation of the current Creative Europe programme, concrete measures for specific sub-sectors and examining to what extent the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility could be swiftly adapted to mitigate the adverse effects of the outbreak.

Furthermore, the Commission strongly encouraged Member States to make use for their cultural sectors of the "horizontal" actions of the European Union to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, such as Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, the Temporary framework for state aid rules and the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE). The Commission also underlined that in light of the current challenges, an ambitious future EU budget to support culture will be needed for 2021-2027, including for Creative Europe, but also other relevant programmes.

In order to continue the exchanges, I have launched two platforms, one for Member States to exchange on measures for the culture sector, and another one for organisations from the cultural and creative sectors to allow them to share information and good practices. Titled Creativesunite.eu (<https://creativesunite.eu/>), this Platform by the sector, for the sector, is open to your contributions; the platform's success ultimately much depends on such input.

Finally, let me confirm that we do not only want to look at immediate relief measures but feel it is important to address the music sectors' needs post-crisis. In the context of our Music Moves Europe initiative, we are currently exploring ways to help support the sustainability of the sector in the recovery phase.

We appreciate your joint call for specific action to address the crisis' impact on the music ecosystem. Please be assured that there is a strong awareness at the EU level about the need to address the emergency in the cultural and creative sectors and that my services are working tirelessly to assist them in these testing and challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mariya Gabriel', written over a horizontal line.

Mariya Gabriel