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## PRESS RELEASE

(Brussels, 19 April 2016) – Today delegates of the European Alliance for Culture and the Arts met with Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and Silvia Costa MEP, chair of the committee Culture in European Parliament to hand over their manifesto. They urged for support to promote culture in the long-term strategic goals of the Union, including the successor to the EU2020 strategy.

“Looking at the challenges our societies face today, we cannot allow ourselves to keep culture and the arts left outside the doors,” Anita Debaere, Director of Pearle\* \_ Live Performance Europe said after the meeting. Nan van Houte, Secretary General of IETM added: “Culture and the arts are the basis of our societies, our living together, our common values – and this is why it is of utmost importance in European policy making.”

The European Alliance for Culture and the Arts was officially launched at the European Culture Forum in Brussels today. In total, 25 European organisations from various cultural sectors and a number of national associations as well as individuals support the initiative.

The Alliance is calling EU policy makers and national governments to re-think the European approach and put culture at the forefront of their common project. They strongly believe that the Union’s long-term aims are unattainable without culture and the arts as they enable the creation of a thriving European society and a sustainable economy.

Throughout the year the Alliance will campaign further at EU and national level and bring attention to the urgent need to put culture and the arts at the heart of EU policies.

In the coming weeks, more organisations are expected to join the Alliance.

Read the appeal and join the European Alliance for Culture and the Arts:

<https://allianceforculture.com/>

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**Note to editors:**

The European Alliance for Culture and the Arts was initiated by Syndeac, Pearle\* - Live Performance Europe and IETM. Today, 25 European organisations from various cultural sectors and several national organisations and individuals have joined the Alliance which is expected to grow further in the coming weeks.

Through their members the European Alliance for Culture and the Arts represents more than 40.000 organisations all over Europe.

Members of the Alliance:

