



Ramona-Victoria Strugariu
European Parliament,
WIB 05M047
1047, Brussels

Brussels, 30th of April 2020

Dear Commissioner Breton,
Dear Commissioner Gabriel,

The Corona virus crisis is not only a medical, logistical and economic challenge, it is also a cultural challenge. As it was also underlined in the resolution of the European Parliament adopted on the 17th of April 2020 - *EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences*, the cultural and creative sectors in the Member States have been hit especially hard due to the closure of cinemas, theatres and music venues and the sudden stop of ticket sales.

The current crisis is particularly critical for cultural and creative sectors due to the sudden and massive loss of revenue opportunities. In the aforementioned resolution, the European Parliament has also pointed out that these sectors have high numbers of freelance and self-employed workers, many of whom were struggling well before the outbreak and that the effects are particularly dire for creative professionals, whose income streams have been unexpectedly reduced to zero and who now have little or no support from the social system. The current situation creates therefore a structural threat to the survival of many actors involved in cultural and creative production.

And yet cultural actors have found creative ways to offer hope amid the COVID-19 crisis and showed their solidarity in very concrete ways. Many cultural institutions and actors have provided online and free content in recent weeks, aware of the fact that the availability of cultural contents contributes to the mental health and the general well-being of our populations, especially in times of crisis when citizens are confronted with the reality of disease and lockdowns. The last weeks have reminded us, more than ever, of the importance of culture and creativity for our societies.

The European Union and the Member States should also show their solidarity by urgently providing essential support to culture makers and taking every possible action in order to keep our European cultural life alive and vibrant.

The European Commission should therefore take the lead and send a strong message of support, recognising the value of our European cultural sector and acknowledging the disastrous impacts of COVID-19 on the arts, cultural and entertainment industries and the creative sector as a whole. It is also essential that the European Commission, together with the Member States, act in a coordinated way in order to help mitigate the negative impacts of the



crisis in the short term and ensure the sustainability of these sectors in the medium term. Last but not least, the European Commission must mobilize increased financial support through the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility (Creative Europe programme) and must keep these sectors in its focus in the wider plans of recovery for Europe.

We are looking forward to your reply detailing the plans of the European Commission and for urgent concrete actions in support of culture, the backbone of our European societies.

Yours sincerely,

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