

Ensuring AgoraEU can effectively support authors, performers, and other artists and cultural workers across all cultural and creative sectors

Joint comments and voting recommendations on the proposed amendments to the AgoraEU programme

Brussels, 17 September 2026

Dear Member of the Culture and Education (CULT) Committee,

Dear Member of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee,

We are writing to you on behalf of a coalition of professional organisations representing the **collective voice of hundreds of thousands of writers, literary translators, journalists, actors, musicians, composers, songwriters, screen directors, screenwriters, visual artists, and other cultural and creative workers** – across the cultural and creative sectors.

On 3 June 2026, MEPs Emma Rafowicz and Alice Kuhnke presented their draft report in the European Parliament's CULT and LIBE committees. Our organisations warmly welcome such a report and would like to provide our recommendations on all key amendments which reflect crucial priorities for our creative communities.

EU funding programmes dedicated to the cultural and creative sectors such as the existing Creative Europe programme play an essential role to support and promote artistic creation and cultural diversity across Europe. However, programme beneficiaries fail too often to guarantee safe and fair working conditions and comply with authors' and performers' rights under EU law.

In line with the intended objective of AgoraEU to "contribute to the improvement of working conditions for artists and cultural and creative professionals", **we urge you to include clear provisions on fair working conditions and social conditionality, respect of existing copyright rules, including fair contracts as well as proportionate and appropriate remuneration and priority for works and performances based on human creation.**

1. Support fair working conditions and social conditionality

Fair working conditions and social conditionality should be core requirements of AgoraEU. Public funding for culture should not be extended unconditionally: without a binding requirement to uphold minimum social standards and fair working conditions, the programme risks financing cultural activities while leaving the authors and performers who produce them without adequate protection, undermining the very people the culture it funds depends on.

Programme beneficiaries should comply with applicable Union and national rules and ensure fair working conditions for workers and self-employed professionals, including "respect for minimum social standards such as labour rights, decent working conditions, non-discrimination, accessibility, and fair and equal remuneration". In addition, **we urge MEPs to strengthen support to authors, performers and their organisations** – which remains unfortunately very limited in existing programmes.

We therefore call for the adoption of amendments, 13, 16, 46, 87, 90, 92, 100, 101, 103, 128, 193, 237, 281, 299, 307, 390, 475, 487, 565, 600, 605, 609, 728, 731, 819, 839, 850, 867, 896, 899, 901, 971, 1284, 1287, 1315, 1513, 1539 and for the rejection of amendments 841 and 891.

2. Ensure the respect for existing authors' and performers' IP rights

Copyright and related rights under EU law grant vital rights to authors and performers alike, in particular Articles 18 to 23 of the Directive 2019/790 which establish binding obligations on transparency and fair remuneration in contracts. **AgoraEU must only support beneficiaries who comply with EU law, so that authors' and performers' rights are not merely recognised in principle but actively respected in practice.** Furthermore, all references to the rights of authors alone shall be amended to expressly also include performers: their intellectual property rights are no less essential to their livelihoods and there is no justification for the Programme to treat the two groups unequally. A mere reference to a future non-binding EU Artists Charter cannot replace the need to comply with existing, binding EU law.

We therefore call for the adoption of amendments 173 (further amended to include performers), 288, 272, 273, 821, 853, 951, 961, 962, 1254 (further amended as above), 1531 and for the rejection of amendment 830.

3. Prioritise human created works and performances

Public cultural funding such as AgoraEU should support only human expression, artistic diversity and professional creative communities. For this reason, we support amendments giving priority to works and performances where human creativity is the substantial, identifiable source.

We therefore support amendments 92, 102, 131, 282, 259, 652, 889, 895, 900, 980, 1094, 1102, 1104, 1107, 1249, 1479.

We thank CULT and LIBE Members for considering our recommendations (see annex below) which seek to ensure AgoraEU can support fair, sustainable and human-centred cultural and creative sectors in Europe.

###

European Parliament report on the 'AgoraEU' programme - Voting list recommendations

AM	Article / point	Sponsor(s)	Political group	Voting recommendations	OBSERVATIONS
13	Recital 8b new	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
16	Recital 8c new	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
46	Recital 28a new	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
87	Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point d	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
90	Article 4a (new)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
92	Chapter II a (new)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
100	Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point e	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
101	Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point e a (new)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
102	Article 5 – paragraph 2 a new	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
103	Article 5 – paragraph 2 b (new)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
128	Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point a new	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
131	Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point b	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
173	Article 16 – paragraph 6 a (new)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	<i>This amendment should expressly also mention performers, in addition to authors.</i>
193	Recital 1 a (new)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
237	Recital 5 b (new)	Furore	The Left	Support	
259	Recital 7	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
272	Recital 7 a (new)	Verheyen et al.	EPP	Support	<i>We suggest reflecting the essence of these two amendments in a compromise amendment.</i>
273	Recital 7 a (new)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
281	Recital 7 c (new)	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
282	Recital 7 d (new)	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
288	Recital 8	Firea/Guzenina	S&D	Support	
299	Recital 8 a (new)	Zingaretti	S&D	Support	
307	Recital 8 b (new)	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
390	Recital 12 b (new)	Firea & al.	S&D	Support	
475	Recital 17	Śmiszek & al.	S&D	Support	
487	Recital 18	Śmiszek & al.	S&D	Support	
565	Recital 23	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
600	Recital 28	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
605	Recital 28a new	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
609	Recital 28b new	Furore	The Left	Support	
652	Recital 35b new	Verheyen et al.	EPP	Support	

AM	Article / point	Sponsor(s)	Political group	Voting recommendations	OBSERVATIONS
728	Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a – point i a new	Furore	The Left	Support	
731	Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a – point i b (new)	Furore	The Left	Support	
819	Art.4(1)(aa) new	Furore	The Left	Support	
821	Art.4(1)(ac) new	Furore	The Left	Support	
830	Art.4(1)(b)	Borvendég	ESN	Against	
839	Art.4(1)(c)	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
841	Art.4(1)(c)	Tynkkynen	ECR	Against	
850	Art.4(1)(ca) new	Berg	NI	Support	
853	Art.4(1)(d)	Firea/Guzenina	S&D	Support	
867	Art.4(1)(e)	Firea/Guzenina	S&D	Support	
889	Art.4(2)	Furore	The Left	Support	
891	Art.4(2)	Tynkkynen	ECR	Against	
895	Art.4(2a) new	Ros Sempere	S&D	Support	
896	Art.4(2a) new	Valchev et al.	ECR	Support	
899	Art.4b new	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
900	Art.4c new	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
901	Chapter IIa new	Kohut	EPP	Support	
951	Art.5(1)(e)	Scheuring-Wielgus/Guzenina	S&D	Support	
961	Art.5(1)(ea) new	van den Berg et al.	Renew	Support	
962	Art.5(1)(ea) new	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
971	Art.5(2)	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
980	Art.5(2a) new	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
1094	Article 6 – paragraph 2	Furore	The Left	Support	
1102	Article 6 – paragraph 2 a (new)	Barrena Arza	The Left	Support	
1104	Article 6 – paragraph 2 a (new)	Riba i Giner	Greens/EFA	Support	
1107	Chapter III a (new)	Scheuring-Wielgus/Guzenina	S&D	Support	
1249	Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point b	Śmiszek & al.	S&D	Support	
1254	Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point b	Firea/Guzenina	S&D	Support	<i>This amendment should also expressly mention performers' rights.</i>
1284	Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point d a (new)	Zan	S&D	Support	
1287	Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point d b (new)	Śmiszek & al.	S&D	Support	
1315	Article 11 – paragraph 1 c (new)	Śmiszek & al.	S&D	Support	
1479	Article 16 – paragraph 6 a (new)	Carberry	EPP	Support	
1513	Art. 17 a (new)	Furore	The Left	Support	
1531	Annex I	Rafowicz/Kuhnke	S&D, Greens/EFA	Support	
1539	Annex II	Śmiszek & al.	S&D	Support	

List of signatories

CEATL (European Council of Literary Translators' Associations) CEATL (European Council of Literary Translators' Associations) is an international non-profit organisation created in 1993 as a platform where literary translators' associations from different European countries could exchange views and information and join forces to improve status and working conditions of translators. Today it is the largest organisation of literary translators in Europe with 38 member associations from 30 countries, representing some 12.000 individual literary translators.

Web: www.ceatl.eu / EU Transparency Register ID: 65913704675-82

ECSA (European Composer and Songwriter Alliance) represents over 30,000 professional composers and songwriters in 29 European countries. With 57 member organisations across Europe, the Alliance speaks for the interests of music creators of art & classical music (contemporary), film & audiovisual music, as well as popular music.

Web: www.composeralliance.org / EU Transparency Register ID: 71423433087-91

EFJ (European Federation of Journalists) is the largest organisation of journalists in Europe, representing over 320,000 journalists in 73 journalists' organisations across 45 countries. The EFJ is recognised by the European Union and the Council of Europe as the representative voice of journalists in Europe. The EFJ is a member of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

Web: www.europeanjournalists.com / EU Transparency Register ID: 27471236588-39

EGAIR (European Guild for Artificial Intelligence Regulation) is a network of creatives and associations from all over Europe, lobbying for the protection of artists' works and data from AI companies. Originally founded by MeFu, the Italian association of comic book creators, EGAIR now represents over 20.000 creatives, artists and associations.

Web: www.egair.eu / EU Transparency Register ID: 385629348610-21

EIF (European Illustrators Forum) is a network of 23 national associations of illustrators based in 14 European countries representing over 12,000 illustrators. The EIF defends the rights of illustrators and promotes illustration within Europe and around the world. We represent our members' common interests by liaising with other networks and authorities of the European Union. The EIF furthers exchange of knowledge and critical debate between professional illustrators and their clients through conferences, exhibitions, research and education.

Web: <https://www.european-illustrators-forum.com>

EWC (European Writers' Council) is the world's largest federation representing solely authors from the book sector and constituted by 52 national professional writers' and literary translators' associations from 34 countries. EWC members comprise over 250.000 professional authors, writing and publishing in 37 languages.

Web: <https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu> / EU Transparency Register ID: 56788289570-24

FERA (Federation of European Screen Directors) represents film and TV directors at European level, with 48 directors' associations as members from 35 countries. Founded in 1980, FERA speaks for more than 20,000 European screen directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests.

Web: <https://screendirectors.eu> / EU Transparency Register ID: 29280842236- 21

FIA (International Federation of Actors) is a global union federation representing performers' trade unions, guilds and professional associations in about 70 countries. In a connected world of content and entertainment, it stands for fair social, economic and moral rights for audio-visual performers working in all recorded media and live theatre.

Web: www.fia-actors.com / EU Transparency Register ID: 24070646198-51

FIM (International Federation of Musicians) is the only body representing professional musicians and their trade unions globally, with members in about 65 countries covering all regions of the world. Founded in 1948, FIM is recognised as an NGO by diverse international authorities such as the ILO, WIPO, UNESCO, the European Commission, the European Parliament or the Council of Europe.

Web: <https://www.fim-musicians.org> / EU Transparency Register ID: 01953872943-65

FSE (Federation of Screenwriters in Europe) is a network of national associations, guilds and unions of writers for the screen in Europe, created in June 2001. It comprises 31 organisations from 27 countries, representing more than 10,000 screenwriters in Europe.

Web: www.federationscreenwriters.eu / EU Transparency Register ID: 642670217507-74

IAO (International Artist Organisation) is the umbrella association for national organisations advocating for the rights and interests of the Featured Artists in the music industry. Our main interests are transparency, the protection of intellectual property rights and a fair reflection of the value an artist's work generates.

Web: www.iaomusic.org / EU Transparency Register ID: 490166825799-90

IFJ (International Federation of Journalists) is the world's largest organisation of journalists, representing 600,000 media professionals from 187 trade unions and associations in more than 140 countries.

Web: www.ifj.org / EU Transparency Register ID: 999725935832-94

UNI MEI - UNI - Media, Entertainment and Arts unites over 140 unions and guilds to raise standards and enforce rights for more than 500.000 creatives, technicians and auxiliary workers. Together, our members work for a fair, inclusive, equal, and sustainable global entertainment industry and a just transformation.

Web: www.uniglobalunion.org / EU Transparency Register ID: 605859248462-93

UVA (United Voice Artists) is a global coalition of voice acting guilds, associations, and unions that have united to pursue their shared goals of protecting and preserving the act of creating, in particular, through the human voice. This collaborative effort brings together prominent associations and unions from the European Union, including France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Poland, as well as organizations in Switzerland, Turkey, the United States of America, Africa and in South America.

Web: www.unitedvoiceartists.com / EU Transparency register ID: 810100650765-18