AgoraEU: Reject the cuts. Invest in Europe's musical future.

We, the undersigned organisations representing Europe's music sector, oppose the proposed 30% cut to the budget of AgoraEU. We urge Member States and the Irish Presidency to restore at a minimum the Commission's proposed budget, work towards Parliament's higher ambition, and secure dedicated, ring-fenced funding for music in the EU's 2028–2034 budget.

Cutting AgoraEU from the Commission's proposed €8.6 billion to around €6 billion places a disproportionate burden on culture, media and democracy when the overall proposed budget reduction is approximately 8%. A marginal saving in the overall EU budget would come at a dramatic cost to Europe's ambition and capacity to support a competitive and diverse cultural sector, and within that a strong European music ecosystem.

Music connects communities, creates jobs and significant exports, while carrying Europe's languages and identities across borders. It is also a major economic asset, contributing €81.9 billion to EU GDP, supporting 2 million jobs and generating €9.7 billion in annual export revenue (Oxford Economics, 2020).

Yet issues such as AI disruption, market concentration, streaming fraud and opaque streaming models put artists and independent businesses under growing pressure. Dedicated European support is vital to unlock the full potential of Europe's music sector and overcome barriers that national investment alone cannot address. Without it, European music risks a future with European talent left undeveloped and future international successes unrealised.

Preserving AgoraEU's overall budget must be matched by securing a clear financial commitment to music. We call on all EU decision-makers to:

- Reject the 30% cut and at a minimum restore the Commission's proposed €8.6 billion for AgoraEU, while working towards closer alignment with the Parliament's proposal of €10.7 billion, ensuring sufficient resources for all its objectives.

- Secure dedicated music funding with a ring-fenced financial commitment focused on the concrete challenges of the music sector.

- Guarantee dedicated music calls across the full value chain, accessible to smaller and independent actors, supporting the sustainability of the ecosystem, including talent development, cross-border circulation and audience development.

These commitments must be secured in AgoraEU's regulation with an ambitious budget before negotiations conclude. Recognition of music's importance must translate into resources that artists and organisations can rely on.

Europe's musical future will be shaped by the talent we enable to develop now. Reject the cuts and give that talent the investment it needs to succeed.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned organisations

<u>European level</u>
AEC - Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen
AEPO-ARTIS - Association of European Performers' Organisations
AFEM - Association for Electronic Music
Center for Music Ecosystems
ECSA - European Composer & Songwriter Alliance
European Center of Music
EJN - Europe Jazz Network
EMEE - European Music Exporters Exchange
European Music Council
European Music Managers Alliance
European Talent Exchange
Federation of Music Conferences
FIM - International Federation of Musicians
GESAC - European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers
IAO - International Artist Organisation
IMPALA
IMPF - global trade and advocacy body for independent music publishers
Keychange
Live DMA
Liveurope
Music Cities Network
REMA - European Early Music Network
Reset! network
YOUROPE e.V.

<u>Armenia</u>
CEDS.am

<u>Austria</u>
Austrian Music Export
mica - music austria
Posthof LInz
VIMÖ - indies.at

<u>Belgium</u>

Ancienne Belgique
Belgian Independent Music Association
Clubcircuit
FBMU - Fédération des Bookers et Managers Uni·es (Belgium)
PlayRight CV
VI.BE

Bulgaria
ANMIP-BG
Bulgarian music association
Club MIXTAPE 5

Croatia
Cultural Development Association CDA
HUZIP
RUNDA ADRIA - Regional Association of Independent Labels
Unison - Croatia Music Alliance
We Move Music Croatia

Czechia
Palác Akropolis

Denmark
Danske Artist Managers (DAM)
VEGA

Estonia
Estonian Performers Association (EEL)
Music Estonia
Paavli Kultuurivabrik

Faroe Islands
Faroe Music Export

Finland
LiveFIN
MMF Finland
Music Finland

France
Aéronef Lille
FEDELIMA - French federation of live music venues
FÉLIN – French National Federation of Independent Record Labels
UMAN
UPFI

Ireland
Association of Independent Music Ireland
Golden Éire Records

Music from Ireland

Italy
ATER Fondazione / Emilia Romagna Music Commission
KeepOn LIVE
RisorgiMarche
Santeria S.p.a

Germany
IMUC
FZW Event GmbH
LiveMusikKommission e.V.

Greece
APOLLON - Greek Musicians' Royalties Collecting Society
Music from Greece AMKE

Hungary
A38 Ship

Latvia
LaIPA

Lithuania
Lithuanian Music Business Association

Luxembourg
Rockhal - Centre de Musiques Amplifiées

Netherlands
BAM! (Dutch Artist & Songwriter Association)
Dutch Music Export
ESNS - Eurosonic Noorderslag
Melkweg
MMF NL
Vereniging Nederlandse Poppodia en -Festivals (VNPF) / Dutch association music venues and festivals

Poland
Izba Gospodarcza Menadżerów Artystów Polskich (IGMAP)
Klub Stodoła
Fundacja Wytwórnia

Portugal
Casa Capitão
GDA, Direitos dos Artistas, CRL

Romania
Romanian Artists Worldwide Association

Thymecat Recordings

Serbia
Music Serbia

Slovakia
Nová Cvernovka
SLOVGRAM

Slovenia
Glosa SKG
Kino Šiška Centre for Urban Culture

Spain
AIE - Sociedad de Artistas Intérpretes o Ejecutantes de España
ACCES
FORMA
Sounds from Spain
SALA APOLO
Unión Fonográfica Independiente

Sweden
Debaser
MMF Sweden
SOM - Svenska Oberoende Musikproducenter
Swedish Artists' and Musicians' Interest Organisation (SAMI)
Westside Music Sweden

Switzerland
Swiss Music Export

Türkiye
MÜYORBİR-Müzik Yorumcuları Meslek Birliği

United Kingdom
Angharad Cooper Consultancy and Coaching Ltd
PRS Foundation

Ukraine
MMF Ukraine

Norway
BLÅ
BRENNERIVEIEN JAZZHUS AS
NEMAA