



Press Release : « Moving Beyond Brexit : Uniting the Cultural and Creative Sectors »

On Monday, September 24, 2018, more than 60 leading experts from the cultural and creative sectors from across Europe called on Brexit negotiators to address their urgent concerns related to mobility, funding, partnerships and legal questions surrounding the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

Practical Next Steps Departing from Existing Recommendations

During today's expert workshop organized by the Centre for Fine Arts of Brussels (BOZAR), in partnership with the European Cultural Foundation and the British Council, cultural workers, directors, artists, and European federations assembled to raise their voices on Brexit and its potential impact on their fields: from music to design, audiovisual, architecture, visual arts, performing art, or publishing.

Coming from all over the EU, participants clearly expressed their concerns that their interests may have been overlooked, and that the power of these sectors has been underestimated. As one participant put it :

'The UK is essential This is a chance too. It forces us to rethink the models. It's not just the economic argument. The EU was a cultural project to secure peace in Europe. This needs reaffirming. It's not just about making deals.'

The discussions focused on the mobility of artists, artworks or the distribution of audiovisual content; the access of UK partners to EU funding streams and collaborative schemes with their continental partners; and legal questions related to copyright, competition rules, internal market, future trade agreements, dominated the days discussions.

Given the uncertainty of the situation the goal of this expert workshop was to reaffirm of our shared intent, common values and to produce practical recommendations from the Cultural and Creative sectors that go beyond those that have already been made.

Today's event is the latest in a series designed to put forth actionable next steps for how to negotiate the current and coming challenges. Participants today have expressed that they feel their concerns have not been sufficiently reflected in the political discourse. Additionally there was the sentiment that the larger public is overwhelmed, disinterested or fatigued. That there is a lack of awareness across the board of the damage that has already been done, the scope of what is at stake, and what lies ahead.

In recognition of the unique historical and mutually beneficial EU-UK relationship and the vital importance of continued cultural cooperation in future, the recommendations are outlined below.

Legal Issues :

1. In recognition of the crucial role that the UK government and British members of the European Parliament have played in the negotiations on the forthcoming Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market and irrespective of the timing of the final adoption at EU level, the UK Government should commit to the transposition of the Directive into UK domestic law.
2. (Mindful of the needs of) the next generation of creative talent, we recommend the introduction of specific arrangements that would allow artists, culture and creative industries professionals, their teams, materials and equipment to move freely across borders in the UK and the EU.
3. In the event of a Brexit in which the UK is no longer part of the digital single market the Audiovisual Media Services Directive's Country of Origin Principle, we ask that EU national regulators and Ofcom (facilitated by the Commission and the national Governments) to work towards a framework of mutual recognition for Audiovisual related legislation, in order to promote investment, consumer choice, plurality and cultural exchange.
4. Students who complete studies (undergraduate or postgraduate) in UK/EU higher education institutions should have the right to stay and work in the country they studied in for a period of two consecutive years within a five year period.
5. Given the centrality of international collaboration to work in the creative, cultural and media sectors, we call on negotiators to maintain a robust legal basis following Brexit for: standardisation, competition law including state aid, maintenance of workers' rights, recognition of professional qualifications and the free flow of data.

Funding recommendations to EU Institutions, member states and UK Government:

1. To provide clarification and firm commitment on:
 - a. Immediate reassurance of UK eligibility for funding programmes during the transition period (in order to avoid negatively impacting hundreds of European partnerships and funding agreements)
 - b. Clarification of the end date/ cut off point of submission and selection of awarded projects
 - c. Confirmation of specific guidance on how HM Treasury guarantees work and practices from all EU funding programmes
2. To Ensure full UK participation in culture and education programmes post-2020
3. European cultural and creative sector to be fully consulted and engaged by DCMS and European institutions during the negotiation on the culture and education accord or any future agreement and the design and management of programmes post 2020.
4. Establish an initiative and fund ('European Action Fund') in order to:

- a) support organisations' development at European level and continuous Europe-UK cooperation
- b) mitigate negative impacts on UK cultural organisations as a result of Brexit

Mobility Recommendations :

1.Data collection and analysis need to inform new measures related to the movement of labor in the arts and cultural sector. Data should fine-tune the perception of UK arts and cultural sector from EU countries

2.Information access should be free, accessible, reliable and open on administrative issues (eg. Visas, work permits, taxation, social protection, customs, etc.) to all UK and EU27 artists and cultural professionals on the mid- and long-term. Support from national and local governments should be ensured to set up, maintain, update online information and related tailor-made services.

3.Freedom of movement / visas and related work permits : Based on previous recommendations, any new measures should avoid restrictive administrative procedures. maintain mobility and residency rights for EU workers operating in the UK and vice versa. Regarding visa/work permits, we also suggest different scenarios to facilitate the free mobility of people and goods through different options, to be implemented in a reciprocal way as much as possible. Ideal scenario is the visa-free mobility between UK and EU27 countries. Alternatively, visa-waiver could be implemented for a certain category of people and/or countries. In parallel to the scenarios above, we recommend to test the house of Lords model with other EU countries, including as much as possible as work permits. In all cases, it is crucial to negotiate to maintain the current travel area UK-Ireland where there is no visa restriction.

In the spirit of responsible, proactive and global citizenship many of the participants expressed a strong desire to maximize the scope and impact of the days event by sharing the outcomes within their networks, partners including targeted outreach to key stakeholders beyond the sector. Additionally, looking ahead to the future there was a clear desire to make concrete plans and commitments to collaborate in the coming months and years, regardless of what an eventual framework may look like. Including a festival at BOZAR showcasing artists from the UK and the EU.

The event 'Moving Beyond Brexit: Uniting the Cultural and Creative Sectors' was co-organized by BOZAR, the British Council and the European Cultural Foundation.