

**Seminar on incoming and outgoing mobility
in the live performance sector: visas and work permits**

Background note

5 October 2010, 14-18.30 De Markten - Brussels

Introduction

When in 2006 the European Year on Mobility of Workers was celebrated, the live performance sector identified four major areas in which it observed genuine obstacles to mobility in the EU internal market: social security, taxation, visas and work-permits for third country nationals, intellectual property. The study that Pearle* had commissioned that year on 'impediments to mobility in the performing arts sector and possible solutions' clearly identified the problems related to administrative burdens and pinpointed the legal shortages in EU regulations.

Mobility in the cultural sector has become a main item on the European agenda, which resulted in a number of actions and initiatives, such as the launching of some studies on mobility by DG Culture, the setting up of a working group on mobility by the EU Member States within the framework of the Open Method of Coordination, and the proposal for a pilot project on mobility supported by the European Parliament, allowing for a selected number of projects to deepen their expertise and know-how on mobility in the culture sector. In this context, Pearle*, the European trade federation of performing arts organisations and companies, is a partner in the European pilot project PRACTICS (2008-2011), which aims at testing a EU-wide network of information centres allowing for artists and cultural entrepreneurs to gain information, support, guidance on working in an EU environment. This should help to unlock the potential of the culture and creative sectors, where mobility of products, services and people are inherent to their businesses.

The civil society platform 'culture and creative industries', of which Pearle is a member, raised several issues related to mobility, external relations and presence in the international markets. The platform equally presented several proposals and recommendations in June 2009 and in reply to the Green paper on cultural and creative industries due 30 June 2010. Pearle is therefore grateful that this seminar will also benefit of the input of members of the platform (in particular: the European Music Office EMO, the International Federation of Musicians FIM and the Roberto Cimetta Fund).

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The results of this seminar will also be subject of a discussion within the framework of the European sectoral social dialogue 'live performance' where Pearle, representing employers, and FIM besides FIA and Uni-Mei, are representing on behalf of the trade-unions, the artists and cultural workers.

This is the second thematic seminar in the framework of the three-year pilot project "Practices", funded by the European Commission – DG Culture. The first seminar, organised on 9 November 2009, focused on social security and taxation, which lead to conclusions and recommendations towards the EU.

Target group

The seminar is addressed to anyone dealing with the subject matter in daily practice and having knowledge of the applicable legislative rules: lawyers, HR managers, managers of live performance companies, artists and culture workers. Policy makers, civil servants, researchers and academics interested in the application of EU legislation in the sector and interested in promoting mobility will receive a better understanding on the implications of the EU regulatory environment on the sector.

Objectives

The seminar will focus on the high mobility of people and groups in the live performance sector, with incoming third-country nationals to the EU and European citizens or groups travelling to other parts. The content of discussions will be focused on visa and work permits. Other issues such as social security and taxation have been the subject of a previous seminar. Participants will learn about the EU initiatives to facilitate the entry of third country nationals, recent developments and new proposals, identify problems or challenges for this highly mobile group, consider best practices in some EU Member States and exchange views on the situation in other parts of the world. The afternoon will therefore contain two main parts, the first focusing on incoming mobility and the second part on travelling to other parts of the world. The seminar will allow to present proposals and recommendations on how to improve the mobility of artists around the world.

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