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EU-kommisjonens forslag til endringer på visumfeltet – Revisjon av visumforordningen og forslag til nytt T-visum – innspill fra Norsk teater- og orkesterforening (NTO)

Vi viser til høringsbrev av 4. juli d.å., hvor Justis- og beredskapsdepartementet inviterer til innspill til utarbeidelse av norsk holdning i behandlingen av EU-kommisjonens forslag til endringer på visumfeltet.

Norsk teater- og orkesterforening støtter kommisjonens forslag. Vi vil særlig understreke betydningen av det foreslåtte T-visumet ("Touring Visa"), som kan bidra til å fremme kunstnerisk utveksling ved å gjøre det enklere for kunstnere fra land som ikke er medlem av EU å turnere i Schengenområdet.

Vi viser til vedlagte uttalelse fra PEARLE (Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe) og en rekke andre organisasjoner, hvor det gjøres rede for fordeler med det foreslåtte T-visumet.

Vennlig hilsen
Norsk teater- og orkesterforening

Bernt Bauge
styreleder

Morten Gjelten
direktør

Vedlegg: *Support for Touring Visa*, juni 2014

Support for Touring Visa

June 2014

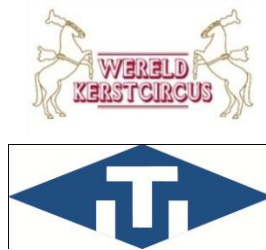
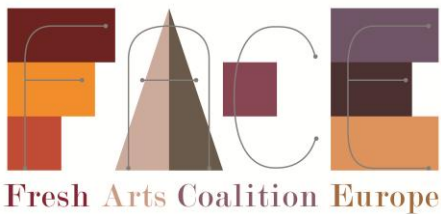


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Cavalia



International Theatre Institute - Germany



Network of cultural centres initiated by citizens and artists



Benefits of the Proposed Touring Visa

The live performance touring sector strongly supports the Touring Visa.¹ It would allow qualified non-EU nationals such as live performance artists with touring companies to circulate within the Schengen area for up to one year with a possibility of extension for one year. The Touring Visa would be available to both visa exempted *and* non-visa exempted individuals. National rules would continue to apply to stays exceeding 90 days in any 180 days in a single Member State and govern work permits. If adopted, the proposal will:

✓ Increase cultural exchange and diversity

The possibility to tour longer in the European Union will increase the availability of live touring performances for audiences across Europe that feature performers from a variety of countries including also from outside of the European Union.

✓ Enhance ability to respond to audience demand

With the option for a longer stay, live performance touring companies will be able to prolong engagements in response to audience demand in the various Member States.

✓ Eliminate the disruptive 90/180 day restriction

Enabling stays of up to one year will avoid that tours must hopscotch in and out of the Schengen area at great expense or changes casts at risk to the integrity of the performance.

✓ Avoid the current “catch-22” for visa exempt individuals

The applicability of the proposed Touring Visa to visa-exempt individuals (e.g. citizens of Australia, U.S., Canada, Japan, etc.) avoids that such persons – who cannot obtain visas because they do not need them - may be considered as “overstaying” in the Schengen area.

✓ Reduce burden on governments and the cultural sector

Increasing the period of validity of the visa will significantly decrease costs for artists, touring companies and consulate staff and facilitate tour planning. Allowing consulates to waive documentation requirements for applicants with known, reliable companies also will significantly reduce administrative burden without increasing risk.

✓ Create the possibility to book subsequent engagements

Because the visa would allow holders to apply for an extension while in the Schengen area, the proposal creates the possibility for artists to extend their tours or be engaged for short programs with European circuses, festivals, and/or theaters. In addition, the ability for European organisations to see and engage new talent without the expense and delay of returns to thirds countries further contributes to artistic exchange and reduction of costs and bureaucracy.

✓ Contribute to increased revenues for local communities

Permitting tours to remain longer in the Schengen area can only result in a benefit to local economies through rentals of buildings/premises and hiring of hotels, transport, local workers for concessions, ticket sales, cleaning, etc. as well as in terms of tourism, visibility and income for local and regional communities.

¹ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council establishing a touring visa and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 462/2006 and (EC) No 767/2008. COM (2014) 163 Final; 1.04.2014.

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