



European Group of the International Federation of Actors  
Groupe Européen de la Fédération Internationale des Acteurs  
Europäische Gruppe des Internationalen Schauspielerverbands  
Grupo Europeo de la Federación Internacional de Actores

## **EuroFIA resolution**

### **Support to the Actors' Union of Turkey (AUT) and ÇASOD in their struggle to prevent the demolition of the Emek Theatre in Istanbul**

Whereas:

- The “Emek Theatre” is one of the oldest and most unique movie theatres in Istanbul. Despite being classified and having hosted the International Istanbul Film Festival for thirty years, it is about to be demolished;
- The publicly owned Circle D'Orient building, which houses three theatres including Emek, is sadly to be replaced by a shopping mall. The project owner – a private company - claims that they will “move” the theatre to the fourth floor, which has been deemed as nonsense by the Chamber of Architects of Turkey;
- Despite a campaign launched three years ago by many NGOs and cinema lovers, the project is now about to start;
- On April 7<sup>th</sup> more than one thousand people, including International Istanbul Film Festival guests Costa Gavras and Mike Newell, along with famous Turkish actors, directors and film critics, gathered in a peaceful demonstration. Their attempt to walk down the street of the Emek Theater was violently countered by police forces with tear-gas and water cannons;
- Police forces also arrested and detained four peaceful protestors for six hours, including the FIPRESCI jury member of the International Istanbul Film Festival, film critic Berke Gol;

### **The European group of the International Federation of Actors (EuroFIA), meeting in Edinburgh, UK, on April 13 and 14, 2013 unanimously:**

- **Fully supports ÇASOD, the Actors' Union of Turkey (AUT) and all film professionals in Turkey in their struggle to preserve the Emek Movie theatre;**

- **Calls on the Turkish government to act immediately to preserve such theatre - a classified building of immeasurable cultural importance;**
- **Furthermore, urges the Turkish government to preserve the “Circle d’Orient” and allow this site to flourish as a publicly funded arts centre;**
- **Condemns the brutal repression by police forces, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, of thousands of citizens of Istanbul, peacefully protesting with internationally acclaimed directors Costa Gavras and Mike Newell against the announced demolition of this theatre;**
- **Calls for an independent investigation to be carried out and for those responsible of these deplorable acts of repression to be prosecuted.**

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*Edinburgh, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013*