



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACTEURS
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**The European group of the International Federation of Actors (EuroFIA)
blames Italian and Slovenian governments
for letting down the Teatro Stabile Sloveno in Trieste**

The European group of the International Federation of Actors (EuroFIA) gathers performers' unions, guilds and professional associations from 25 EU member states and speaks on behalf of tens of thousands of professional performers working in theatre, television, film, new media and radio.

EuroFIA is extremely concerned about the extremely precarious conditions of the Teatro Stabile Sloveno in Trieste, the only permanent and state-funded theatre in Italy delivering plays in Slovenian. Despite their statutory obligations, the regional, provincial and municipal authorities in Italy are shamelessly withdrawing their financial contribution to the theatre, thus spoiling not only the Slovenian linguistic minority but the whole city of Trieste of an extremely important cultural institution.

The Slovenian theatre in Trieste employs both Italian and Slovenian workers and is attended by audiences on both sides. Far from being only an expression of the interests of the Slovenian minority, this theatre also represents a powerful symbol of the cooperation and mutual appreciation of the two countries.

Article 6 of the Italian Constitution provides for the protection of all linguistic minorities in Italy. Article 2 of law n. 482 of December 15, 1999, expressly includes the Slovenian language and culture among those deserving special status and protection in Italy. Article 38 of law n° 38 of February 23, 2001, grants the Teatro Stabile Sloveno equal status to that of any other permanent and state-funded theatre in the country.

Two international treaties, signed between the former Republic of Yugoslavia and the Italian republic in 1954 (the London agreement) and in 1975 (the Treaty of Osimo) focus on the rights of linguistic minorities in both countries. The Republic of Slovenia pledged to continue to respect those treaties after its independence.

Despite the financial crisis, EuroFIA is of the view that the disengagement of the Italian authorities from their obligations concerning the Teatro Stabile Sloveno is totally unacceptable. We therefore call on all competent public authorities at regional, provincial and municipal level to preserve the financial stability of the Slovenian theatre and enable it to continue to operate.

We also call on the Slovenian government to take its role seriously and urge the Italian government to fulfil its international obligations. Finally, we commend our affiliated unions GLOSA in Slovenia and SAI in Italy for taking this matter - and the professional future of all workers employed in the theatre - at heart and urge both the Italian and the Slovenian government to discuss with them how best to solve this crisis.

On behalf of EuroFIA,


Agnete Haaland
President of FIA

London, 14 November 2009