

20TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ACTORS
TORONTO, CANADA
SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2012

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS



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EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 1: DEFENDING PUBLIC BROADCASTING IN PORTUGAL

Motion proposed by: STE (Portugal)

Considering that:

The Portuguese government is selling public TV and radio channels, opening the sale to both national and foreign buyers, potentially depriving Portuguese society of a vital public service;

The decision by the Portuguese government to abandon the public service mission towards Portuguese culture and heritage is beyond comprehension;

This situation will greatly affect the already difficult life of performers, technicians, and other cultural workers, and will contribute to the increase of unemployment in an industry where only 30% of the professionals have permanent or intermittent work;

Portugal will potentially be the only European country without a public broadcaster.

The 20th Congress of the International Federation of Actors meeting in Toronto on September 30, 2012:

- Condemns the decision by the Portuguese government to privatise public broadcasting, which will trigger dangerous consequences for the country's culture;
- Calls upon the Portuguese government to reconsider its decision immediately and to engage the social partners in order to work out a satisfactory solution.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 2: RENOVATION OF MUNICIPAL THEATRE OF ISOTRY

Motion proposed by: AATM (Madagascar) with the support of the French-speaking group and the AfroFIA group

Considering the alarming situation of theatre in Madagascar, where there has been no possibility of staging a theatrical production since 2010, due to the dilapidated State of the Municipal Theatre of Isotry, the sole theatre in the capital city of Antananarivo, which is no longer in a fit state to serve as a theatre stage;

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- Supports the dignity of theatre performers in Madagascar and the cultural values that they hold dear;
- Supports the public of the capital city of Antananarivo in their desire to continue to enjoy theatrical productions;
- Calls on the city authorities of Antananarivo, responsible for the Municipal Theatre of Isotry, to proceed as a matter of urgency to the renovation of this stage intended for theatrical productions, so that artists can perform on stage once again;
- Calls on the city authorities of Antananarivo to restore the municipal theatre of Isotry to its primary function, which is as a stage for theatrical production and not as a place for religious gatherings.

EMERGENCY RESOLUION 3: PRIVATE COPYING IN SPAIN

Motion presented by: FAEE (Spain)

Considering that:

In the context of the current crisis, the Spanish government has decided (without any consultation or impact assessment) to abolish the compensation for private coping established in Spain since 1987, which represented an annual collection of 110 million Euros by the collecting societies from multinationals producing blank media;

It has been replaced by an annual flat payment of €5million taken from the State budget and funded by all taxpayers in Spain, regardless of whether they actually copy for private use or not. This removes the link between compensation and the act of copying for personal purposes and it is an unwelcome additional burden at a time when public debt is already high. It reduces payments to the artists, as well as the financial support that collecting societies can offer them for social purposes;

The Spanish government has so far not been able to justify this dramatic 95% reduction. The scrapping of levies has not been reflected in the price of reproduction devices. In fact, the big multinationals are those who are benefiting from the measures taken by the Spanish government at the expense of the creators.

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Condemns the decision to do away with a functional system of private copying levies in favour of a drastically reduced public fund;

Calls upon the Spanish government to rectify this situation by reintroducing a system that relates directly to private copying practice onto blank media;

Reiterates that compensation for private copying is a vital source of income for performers and is an important source of remuneration to allow them to derive a living from their craft and continue to contribute to the creative content that drives the demand for blank media.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 4: THE INCREASE OF VAT IN SPAIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CULTURAL SECTOR

Motion presented by: FAEE (Spain)

Considering that:

Despite the severe crisis currently faced by the artistic sector in Spain, the government has delivered the coup de grace by increasing VAT in cinemas and theatres from 7% to 21% as of September 2012, making it among the highest in Europe;

This new policy is severely affecting the sector, shrinking the demand for cultural goods and services, jeopardizing the sustainability of the industry and threatening thousands of jobs and the already dwindling revenues of creators;

The 20th Congress of the International Federation of Actors meeting in Toronto on September 30, 2012:

Expresses unconditional support to the artists and technicians of the entertainment sector in Spain;

Condemns the irresponsible decision of the Spanish government, which is threatening to wipe out the entire creative sector, despite its considerable contribution to the country's GDP, not to speak of its invaluable importance to foster social cohesion, democracy and freedom of expression;

Expresses its unconditional disapproval of this measure, urging the Spanish government to rectify this situation immediately.