



To the European Commission
Office of the President

17 November 2017, Amsterdam

Dear President Jean-Claude Juncker,

It is with great interest that the sector of Higher Arts Education and Culture took notice of the EC's communiqué of November 14, 2017 with regard to the creation of a European Education Area by 2025.

Our sector recognizes the potential of such a policy decision for the creation of a stable and inclusive Europe deeply rooted in open and democratic societies.

We applaud European Commission's president Jean-Claude Juncker who stated that 'education and culture are the key to the future – both for the individual as well as for our Union as a whole.' He thus points to the intrinsic link between the areas of education and culture and the unique contribution of education in the arts to ensuring broad access to cultural participation, to strengthening a shared European identity and to empowering young people from an early age as the future driving forces of free and democratic European societies.

Our institutions represent 550 stakeholders operating on the intersection of Education, Culture and the Arts. Higher Arts Education is a cornerstone in this important strategic process, drawing on its extensive experience engaging in the implementation and enhancement of the European Higher Education Area. Towards the definition of concrete actions with broad ownership in the sector, we are prepared to engage in a consultation process with you.

On behalf of the members of ELIA and the AEC, in collaboration with Culture Action Europe, we are at your disposal as soon as the road map for implementation of the new strategic focus is known.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.D. Meier".

Thomas D. Meier
President
ELIA-European League of Institutes
of the Arts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eirik Birkeland".

Eirik Birkeland
President
Association Européenne des Conservatoires,
Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen