



Association Européenne des Conservatoires,  
Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC)

Avenue des Celtes/Keltenlaan 20  
1040 Etterbeek, Brussels, Belgium  
E: [info@aec-music.eu](mailto:info@aec-music.eu)  
T: +32 27 37 16 70  
[www.aec-music.eu](http://www.aec-music.eu)

The President of the European Council  
Donald Tusk  
General Secretariat of the EU Council  
Rue de la Loi 175  
B-1048 Brussels

## Culture in the future of Europe

Brussels, 7 May 2019

Dear President Tusk,

On the occasion of the upcoming European Elections, we would like to recall what the outgoing President of the European Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, stated in November 2017, at the meeting of the European Commission leaders in Gothenburg, Sweden:

*"Education and culture are the key to the future - both for the individual as well as for our Union as a whole."*

AEC, the European Association of Higher Music Education Institutions, strongly shares this view, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the realisation of one of the core elements of European politics. Our membership has highly appreciated that the European Commission recognised AEC's role in promoting active citizenship and common values through culture and education in its letter from 11 December 2017.

AEC shares the conviction that the future of the European Union is difficult to imagine without the explicit recognition of its cultural dimension. Culture and Cultural Education are therefore key to build a European identity and are the glue that holds Europe together.

For that reason, cultural networks, cultural organisations, artists, activists, academics and policy-makers call to make culture an integral part of the future of Europe in Sibiu. The cultural sector has actively participated in the reflection process on the future of Europe, leading to this decisive meeting in Romania.

We affirm that Culture and Democracy are not independent one from the other. Moreover, we are deeply convinced that innovation and critical thinking are based on creativity, artistic work and research. In order to transfer this vision into reality, we have to ensure that art education is accessible to every single adolescent citizen of the European Union and should thus be a mandatory part of school curricula.

The cultural field should be seen as fundamental to build the future of Europe in order to counteract the instrumentalisation of culture by Eurosceptic forces and to reinforce EU actions that celebrate cultural diversity. Cultural actors are ready to be a companion and ally in this endeavour.

AEC is committed to be a strong and reliable partner in this alliance.

Yours Sincerely,

Eirik Birkeland, AEC President