



The European Live Music Forum (ELMF) at a full board meeting in Antwerp on April 27th and 28th decided on the immediate tasks and priorities for the newly founded organisation. The executive, consisting of Peter Jenner (UK), Hans Hjorth (SE) and Christof Huber (CH), will take charge of the financial, organisational and general policy issues while building up a wider membership and preparing for the launch of a permanently staffed office in Belgium where the ELMF is presently being registered as a legal body.

The purpose of the ELMF is to create a strong and clear voice for all sectors of the music industry with direct and legitimate interests for the European live music communities and thus establish itself as a speaking partner in these matters for the EU Commission and parliament. The ELMF wishes to stress the 'industry part' of the 'cultural industries', particularly for live music. ELMF wants to campaign for the removal of obstacles, both formal and informal, that hinder the growth of the live music market within the EU/EEA. To this end the ELMF will be looking for the full implementation of the 'single market' concept with the live music sector.

Several working groups were charged with developing a number of issues of strategic concern to the live music communities and reporting to the executive. Amongst them are;

- Political and cultural industry policy issues impacting on the music industries, lead by the ELMF chairman Peter Jenner and board member Peter Smidt (NL). The working group will also be establishing further contacts with potential partners, such as the European Music Office (EMO) and other concerned parties within the sector, in order to prepare for future coordination and constructive working relationships, as well as with the Commission and the Parliament in Brussels.

- Issues of the effects of special national withholding taxations on artists and related issues of social security and VAT within Europe – a unique discrimination of EU citizens while working in the EU/EEA - lead by ELMF vice chairman Hans Hjorth with fellow board members Jens Michow, who is a widely respected legal expert in the field and Tapio Korjus (FI).

- Health and safety issues including the need for harmonised legislation on noise limitations, a working group lead by ELMF secretary Christof Huber, which will seek to interface with others already doing valuable work on the same issues such as the ILMC Health and Safety Group.

- Visa and work permit issues, involving both artists incoming and outgoing to/from the European Union, lead by ELMF vice chairman Hans Hjorth.

- Issues of the music sector within the EU related to the draft for a service directive, lead by board member Bob James (UK) and ELMF chairman Peter Jenner.

The ELMF board will attempt to develop an archive of existing research into the economic and social benefits derived from the live music sector and to work on the distribution this work throughout Europe. This could be especially helpful for the development of the music industry in the new member countries and regions.

All board members were united in their enthusiasm for the Forum and the need for urgency in dealing with the issues raised. But all agreed that the key to the success of the ELMF is a rapid widening and consolidation of the membership base throughout Europe in order to build momentum for its agenda for change.

The ELMF board is PETER JENNER (UK), Chair, HANS HJORTH (SE), Vice Chair, CHRISTOF HUBER (CH), Secretary, TAPIO KORJUS (FI), BOB JAMES (UK), BERNARD BATZEN (FR), PETER SMIDT (NL) and JENS MICHOW (DE).

For further information or interviews, please contact Peter Jenner at +44 208 960 44 38 or by email peter.jenner@sinman.co.uk