

To the Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta
Romanian Government, General Secretariat
To the Romanian Senate

The European Music Council (EMC), regional group of the International Music Council (IMC), is the umbrella organisation for musical life in Europe. It is a platform for National Music Councils and organisations involved in various fields of music from many European countries; the 80 members have their seat in 29 European countries. We reach out to thousands of musicians and music lovers who care about cultural diversity world-wide and in Europe.

We wish to protest strongly against the current Romanian government's proposal to change the mission and tutelage of the Romanian Cultural Institutes.

We beg you to recognize the excellent, accountable, efficient and effective work that the ICRs have been doing and to leave their mission, independence and tutelage the way it is now - we see nothing wrong, but only right; it does not need to be 'fixed'!

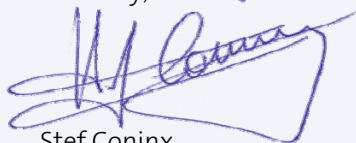
We and our audiences have learned about the beauty of Romanian culture through these Institutes; we have learned of the richness of contemporary thought in Romania and we have had the good fortune to 'discover' and work with the finest of both young and accomplished Romanian artists... all thanks to the independent Romanian Cultural Institutes.

With far less resources than other state cultural institutes, ICR has accomplished a truly admirable task of putting Romanian art and artists onto a very competitive international cultural map in a relatively short period. This is in a very large part due to the innovative approaches of addressing international cultural markets exercised during the presidency of Horia-Roman Patapievi.

Like the Goethe and French Institutes, the British Council and many more, the Romanian Cultural Institutes form a precious neutral space for international cultural exchange, supporting the emergence and development of international cultural collaboration and exchange. Like the other cultural institutes, the ICR's correct stereotypes, support talent, internationalize careers, spread the understanding of the best of their cultures.

Romania is a signatory to many international treaties and declarations, such as the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which oblige states to proactively support freedom of artistic and cultural expression. An "emergency" measure to radically change the ICR mission and submit it to obvious politicized control is against the spirit and the letter of these documents.

Sincerely,



Stef Coninx
EMC Chairman



Simone Dudt
EMC Secretary General

*European Music Council, Haus der Kultur, Weberstr. 59a, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49-228-96699664, Fax: +49-228-6699665, Email: info@emc-imc.org*