

Brussels, April 7th 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

ECSA, the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance, represents over 17,000 professional composers and songwriters in 22 European countries. With 42 member organisations, the Alliance represents the interests of music writers of art & classical music, film & audio-visual music and popular music.

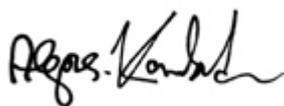
ECSA has been informed by its Serbian member, **Udruzenje kompozitora Srbije** (Composers Association of Serbia), that for the first time in the history of the **International Review of Composers**, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia had decided not to support the festival.

The International Review of Composers is a well-established festival which plays a major role in promoting Serbian culture. It offers a unique opportunity to showcase Serbian Composers as well as the contribution of Serbia to European culture. It firmly anchors Serbia within a wider European network of music professionals and music enthusiasts. The festival actively contributes to the influence of Belgrade as a dynamic and lively cultural centre, and to its international visibility.

ECSA feels strongly that the decision of the Ministry of Culture to withdraw support to the festival is short-sighted and misguided. Our experience as a European association is that European countries which invest in their national cultural heritage and in the active promotion of emerging artists and creators gain considerable influence at regional as well as European level. Supporting music, and contemporary music in particular, is not a cost: it is an investment. In the Balkan area for instance, ECSA has witnessed how Croatia has actively used music as a promotional tool for the country (some of its festivals are referenced in magazines of worldwide fame such as *Time-out*), thus increasing significantly its influence within Europe and attracting an ever larger number of tourists.

ECSA strongly urges the Ministry of Culture to reconsider its decision not to support the International Review of Composers, and to provide in writing a detailed answer to Udruzenje kompozitora Srbije – as they requested it - explaining the rationale for the decision of the Ministry.

Yours sincerely,



Alfons Karabuda
ECSA President



Lucie Mattera
ECSA Secretary General