

## **Live Music Transitional Support Package (TSP)**

### **Overview**

The UK's world-beating live music industry is one of our greatest economic and cultural assets. It contributes £4.5bn to the UK's annual GVA, supports 210,000 FTE roles and many thousands more through its highly skilled supply chain. Many of these individuals earn over 50% of their income from European tours.

After a devastating year of COVID-19 closures, the industry now finds itself excluded from its closest and most important international market. Despite the significant contribution made by the live music industry to the UK economy, the cultural sector was not included in the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement. As access to the European market is essential for live music touring, this places the industry at significant risk.

Without urgent and targeted intervention, the sector's extensive supply chain will collapse, resulting in many thousands of job losses, company closures, and the loss of our world-leading live music supply chain to mainland Europe.

### **UK Cultural Export Office**

The Government (DCMS) has proposed the formation of a UK Cultural Export Office to provide support with Brexit-related issues across the creative industries.

While we are supportive of this concept, LIVE is concerned that the scale and scope of the proposed UK Cultural Export Office is too wide and will take too long to deliver the sector-specific solutions that the live music industry urgently requires to survive in the immediate term. We believe that it will provide great assistance in many areas, but ongoing specific live music support will also be required.

To provide the industry with the support it needs today, LIVE is calling for a Live Music Transitional Support Package (TSP) to safeguard the future of the industry until the proposed UK Cultural Export Office is operational.

### **Live Music Transitional Support Package (TSP)**

The Live Music Transitional Support Package (TSP) would:

- Offer a quick solution for the Government to mitigate the catastrophic disruption to the live music sector caused by Brexit.
- Establish a working partnership between the Government and the live music sector until the planned UK Cultural Export Office is operational.
- Prioritise emerging talent and those likely to be hardest hit by the new regulations.
- Provide support for all those on stage and everyone involved behind the scenes.

The package would consist of five main strands of support:

- 1) Support and relief
- 2) Research
- 3) Information
- 4) Expert advice
- 5) Lobbying and negotiation

### 1) Support and relief

- Financial support to mitigate additional costs from new arrangements with the EU.
  - i) No fee or fixed grants or subsidised rates for permits/carnets/CITES/etc.
  - ii) Reclaim system for additional expenses incurred for work permits, travel costs, etc.
  - iii) Using sliding scale, eg. countries visited, size of party, contract value, duration, etc.
  - iv) Minimum & maximum qualifying criteria subject to post-award audit checks to ensure it reaches the most in need.
- Easement of UK domestic cabotage/cross-trade rules for reflagged vehicles.
- Government supported medical insurance scheme for live music sector workers.
- Streamline immigration routes and increase Government staff resources at borders to deal with increased demand.

### 2) Research

- Scope issues faced by the live music sector, including an in-depth review of entry/work regulations for EU member states for UK nationals and entities.
- Publish results within 8 weeks and have an ongoing brief to update.

### 3) Information

- Develop an app so that new and emerging artists can easily access the information they need to plan EU tours. This should provide:
  - Guidance on specific issues and concerns, including: outward movement of people; inward movement of people; movement of equipment; movement of instruments; cabotage and cross-trade, own account vehicles, overnight coaches, self-drive (splitter) vans; air-freight; VAT; social security and A1 certificates; medical insurance; merchandise (origin/tax/etc), and other 'new relationship' matters
  - FAQs, easy-to-read flow charts, country-by-country guides, information swap forum.
  - Click-through links to EU & UK Government official websites, with regular updates.

### 4) Expert advice

- Delivered by telephone helpline, email and app.
- Free initial consultation and a subsidised rate for ongoing advice and support. Helplines staffed by approved advisers, such as registered visa companies, freight agents, accountants, etc.

### 5) Lobbying and negotiation

- Work to find clarity and resolution – seek cultural exemptions wherever possible.
- Negotiate bilateral immigration deals prioritising countries with most onerous restrictions.
- Easing of UK cabotage & cross-trade regulations to allow reflagging.

While calling for the Live Music Transitional Support Package (TSP), LIVE continues to seek the return of frictionless, cost-free arrangements for short-term paid work across EU27 member states.

## **About LIVE**

LIVE is the voice of the live music industry in the UK. Its membership is comprised of the 13 leading industry associations from across the sector, representing 3,150 companies, over 4,000 artists and 2,000 backstage workers.