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## EU Commission Statement 30 May 2016

Commissioner Navracsics' statement today that the Commission is seeking a solution to EUYO funding is welcomed, but in response to questions from the Council of Ministers, his replies were also inaccurate and misleading

**The EU's Commissioner for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, was today called to respond to the Council of Ministers questions about the lack of funding for the European Union Youth Orchestra. His answers can be seen and heard in the following recording of the public part of the EYCS Council of Ministers session: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/en/webcast/fde64e21-cb86-4b1a-bb8a-88dd118b98fb>**

(the relevant extract from the Commissioner starts at approximately 02.00.00)

The EUYO welcomes the Commissioner's statement that the Commission is trying to find a funding solution. However we are concerned that his public remarks contained the following inaccurate and/or misleading information:

1. Commissioner Navracsics referred on a number of occasions to the 'EUYO's funding application'. This is incorrect. The application was made not by the EUYO, but by the Towards

2020 Partnership, a partnership of 11 organisations (one of them being the EUYO) together with a further 35 Associate Partners.

2. Commissioner Navracsics referred to the EUYO's annual funding applications. Since his accession as Commissioner the EUYO has never made (nor has been able to make) annual applications.
3. Commissioner Navracsics referred to the recent Creative Europe application as having been judged by independent experts as being of 'poor quality'. This is not what the independent experts reported in their detailed evaluation of the application.
4. Most importantly, Commissioner Navracsics' statement fails to mention that the EUYO had had a meeting with him in Brussels in January 2015. We met to seek an alternative funding solution appropriate to a long established EU cultural ambassador organisation such as the EUYO. Creative Europe is a partnership project fund and was never designed to be used as a core funding stream for cultural ambassador organisations. The Orchestra received no response to this meeting, nor to subsequent meetings with other EU offices.

Commissioner Navracsics today asked for patience as the Commission seeks a solution. Unless a solution to the core funding needs of the EUYO is found by July, the Orchestra will be forced to cease operations from 1 September.

\* END \*

For further details of the #SaveEUYO Campaign visit [www.euyo.eu](http://www.euyo.eu) or contact EUYO's Development & Communications Manager Charlotte Hamilton [charlotte@euyo.eu](mailto:charlotte@euyo.eu) 0044 7966 888 917



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