

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement – How to help musicians work in the EU after BREXIT

1 Introduction

UK music industry generated £2.9 billion in exports in 2019, a 9% increase from £2.7 billion in 2018.

Most musicians and performers rely on touring and performing in the European Union to make a living. Musicians, and other creative and cultural workers, have specific needs and it is crucial that visa and customs rules post-Brexit take this into account.

An inability to maintain these exports due to restrictions on working in the EU will seriously damage Britain's image and reputation and lead to an increase in unemployment and reduce the music sector's contribution to the economy.

2 The Trade and Cooperative agreement will affect musicians livelihoods in the following ways.

- “From 1 January 2021, UK nationals seeking to work in the EU will be considered third-country nationals and will therefore need to meet the various requirements of each nation state.
- “Musicians do not come under the exemptions for short term business visitors. Thus individual states could make their own rules, making it particularly difficult for touring musicians.
- The 90-day maximum for short term business visitors in Europe has possible implications for touring musicians.
- Carnets, at a cost of £200 or more, are required to avoid customs delays for music equipment such as instruments and amplifiers. This will add costs and paperwork.
- British TV and video-on-demand service providers will no longer be able to offer pan-European services to European viewers, unless they relocate part of their business to an EU member state.”
- A solution is to seek Europe-wide Visa-free work permit for Touring professionals and Artists

3 What can be done?

I Urge the Government to add musicians to the list of ‘Independent Professionals’ at the earliest opportunity.

I Ask the Government TO negotiate a reciprocal arrangement with the EU that will allow musicians to work freely and unhampered by red tape

I call on the Government and Parliament to back a Musicians' Passport for musicians working in the EU post-Brexit

The Musicians' Passport should:

- Last a minimum of two years
- Be free or cheap, multi entry and admin light
- Cover all EU member states
- Get rid of the need for carnets and other permits
- Cover road crew, technicians and other staff necessary for musicians to do their job

. The Musicians' Union representing over 30,000 working musicians has a blueprint in place

Chris Hodgkins
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