

NO CULTURE WITHOUT SOCIAL RIGHTS

Dear European Ministers of Culture,

You are gathered today at the Palais de Chaillot on behalf of the French Government. We are glad that culture is put forward as an important issue for the EU, but we are here to remind you that culture is made by women and men creating and fighting to survive. How can they deal with creation if they are not given the means and the necessary time for it ?

Dear European Ministers of Culture, if you pretend that culture, art and creation are possible through the policies of under-paid jobs and precariousness that your governments want to implement, you are wrong.

The French government inviting you today is very proud of its cultural and artistic heritage. Cultural activities are known to bring in an income of 57 billion euros per year, more than its car industry.

Therefore, how come our Minister of Culture, Aurélie Filipetti, welcomes favourably the agreement on unemployment insurance that has just been reached ? This agreement is going to reduce dramatically the rights of the artists and technicians of entertainment and cinema industry.

The March 22nd agreement means a drastical collapse in the artists and technicians' income, combined with a vicious measure causing delay of paiement in unemployment fees, marginalizing a majority of the salaries entitled to it.

We refuse to take part in this sinister play written by the employers' trade union.

We officially and firmly demand that our government refuses to give its approval for this agreement.

We want our recommendations to be taken into account. We want our proposals to be examined. These proposals are fair, economically relevant and were approved by the new Minister of Labour.

We have the feeling that we were taken for fools.

Cannes festival is about to come. We are furious.

April 4th 2014

Coordination des Intermittents et Précaires – Île-de-France

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