

Statement made to IAML General Assembly (2<sup>nd</sup> session), Rome, Friday 8 July 2016

I should like to make a statement relating to the UK & Ireland Branch following the recent EU referendum result. In the short time since the vote it has not been possible to consult the membership formally but the members of the Branch Executive committee have endorsed the substance of what I am going to say.

Not only are there are several colleagues from European countries working in music libraries in the UK & Ireland but, as a Branch, we now find ourselves in the position that we represent libraries and librarians in one country that will be leaving the European Union and in one that will still be part of it. Furthermore the stance to be taken by constituent parts of the UK which voted overwhelmingly to remain is uncertain and could cause further complications.

At the moment the effects of the vote on formal co-operation within Europe, particularly on projects which are funded by the European Union, and on Europe wide legislation enacted by the UK, are unclear. Many organisations representing libraries and the wider information community in the UK are assessing the situation and will develop responses when they are in a position so to do. CILIP, with which the UK & Ireland Branch is an organisation in liaison, has issued a statement that it will be engaging with the UK government to ensure that the needs of users and the profession will be protected and recognised.

We want to reassure our colleagues in Europe and further afield that, as a Branch of an international association and one that has a long history of involvement in the Association, we remain completely committed to working together with you to promote the cause of music libraries, archives and documentation centres. For today we are raising this issue as a point of information for our colleagues - it is possible that in the future, we may need to call on the Association to give its support to UK library participation in European projects.

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