



Education and Culture DG

Culture Programme



FONDAZIONE ADKINS CHITI: DONNE IN MUSICA

PRESS RELEASE

Rome, June 21, 2012 – With the **unanimous approval of the resolution** presented by **Hon. Carlucci** regarding **measures for protecting and promoting women in the performing arts**, Italy is the first country to address the 2009 European Parliament resolution that encouraged all member states to undertake initiatives aimed at promoting equality of treatment and of access to men and women in the performing arts .

In 2009 the European Parliament with the resolution “*European Parliament Resolution of 10 March 2009 on equality of treatment and access for men and women in the performing arts*” encouraged the member states to promote gender equality. The resolution, that is not binding, represents a guideline that indicates the EU orientation, giving freedom to member states to undertake actions according to the contents of the resolution. As of today, only Italy, with the approval of the Carlucci resolution, has taken the first step by officially advising the Italian government that it must act according to the resolution’s requests.

This opens a new pathway for the coordination of the fundamental objectives of the project **WIMUST - Women In Music Uniting Strategies for Talent** – of the **Fondazione Adkins Chiti: Donne in Musica**: creating an awareness among governments and member states within the European Union regarding the issue of unequal treatment and lack of access between men and women in the performing arts as underlined in the above-mentioned EUP resolution of 2009. Awareness of the real and ongoing discrimination against women composers, creators of music and artists and their difficulties in affirming themselves on an equal basis with men, requires the adoption of strategies that are aimed at creating favorable conditions for creating better opportunities for women’s integration into the world of music and the performing arts.

The WIMUST program was publicly presented in Rome in Brussels respectively on June 14th and 19th.

During the presentation held in Rome on June 14th, the president of the Foundation, Patricia Adkins Chiti, launched an appeal to the politicians present, to members of the Cultural Commission of the Chamber and Senate, including the Hon. Carlucci, requesting help to change the situation: since if it is true that cultural and recreational industries will become leaders in European economic development influencing the GNP in each country, it is clearly essential that women, artists, and their creative talents are recognized and supported.

Unanimously approving the resolution, the Cultural Commission is involving the Italian government in assuming recognition of the working role of women in the performing arts since limiting their access to cultural, entertainment and art worlds means failing to fully promote the development of society while limiting the freedom of women.

At the same time as the Italian Cultural Commission addressed the indications and guidelines of the European Parliament through the approval of the Carlucci resolution, another important step ahead was taken in Brussels in helping to create an awareness among the member states of the necessity to formulate strategies for reducing gender inequalities in the performing arts.

“I am profoundly happy about Fondazione Adkins Chiti’s important project aimed at reinforcing official recognition of the presence and value in the public and cultural sectors of women composers,” said Italian MEP Silvia Costa, who hosted the presentation of the WIMUST project at the European Parliament in Brussels on the 19th of June 2012.

During the presentation, MEPs Antigoni Papadopoulou (Cyprus) and Britta Thomsen (Denmark) expressed their support to the WIMUST project, as members of the European Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality. “We will pass on the WIMUST message to the Women Committee’s members in order to encourage all Member States to assume the European Parliament resolution of 10 March 2009 on equality of treatment and access for men and women in the performing arts (2008/2182(INI)), observed MEP Britta Thomsen.

“I would like to congratulate Ms Adkins Chiti for her effort and work to gain visibility for women composers. The WIMUST project has my full support,” noted MEP Antigoni Papodopolou, who promised to prepare a new law, which will be presented for debate in front of the national Parliament in Cyprus to gain visibility and recognition for Cypriot women composers.

Carlucci’s Resolution, which encourages the Italian government to remove obstacles to women accessing top positions in cultural institutions and to ensure better social protection, was unanimously approved by all members of the Italian Chamber of Deputies on the 20th of June. The petition of MP Gabriella Carlucci, was also undersigned by MPs De Basi (Pd-Democratic party) Barbieri (Pdl party), Goisis (Lnp party) and Zazzera (Idv party). Therefore, a specific step has been taken to analyse the mechanisms which produce gender inequalities in the performing arts and to encourage access for women to all the artistic professions where they are still in the minority.

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