












**“The Right to Freedom of Artistic Expression and Creativity”  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, European Parliament**

**SPEAKERS**

<p><b>Marie-Christine Vergiat</b></p> 	<p>Passionate activist, Marie-Christine Vergiat is involved in multiple causes, foremost among them the defence of Human rights. She is a member of the League of Human Rights (association member of the International Federation of Human Rights) since 1983. Elected MEP the 7th of June 2009 on the lists of the Front de Gauche in the French South-East constituency (Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Corsica), she seats with the European United Left / Nordic Green Left Group (GUE / NGL) in the European Parliament. She is a member of the Committee on "Culture and Education" and the sub-committee on "Human Rights" and substitute in the Committee "Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs".</p>
<p><b>Mary Ann DeVlieg</b></p> 	<p>Mary Ann DeVlieg's experience spans international performing arts, cultural policy, intercultural practice, arts mobility and arts and human rights. After serving as Secretary General of IETM (international network for contemporary performing arts) from 1994 - 2013, she recently took up the role of Senior Strategy Advisor to freeDimensional, an organization that helps artists and culture workers who are threatened, harmed or imprisoned by linking them with a range of pro bono services. Her other functions have included serving as Chair of EU Working Group on Arts, Rights, Justice (2011- present), co-founding the International Coalition for Arts, Human Rights and Social Justice</p>
<p><b>Farida Shaheed</b></p> 	<p>Farida Shaheed has been a United Nations Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights since 2009 and continued as a Special Rapporteur on the same issue, following Human Rights Council Resolution 19/6 of 2012. Ms. Shaheed is a Pakistani sociologist and a recipient of several national and international human rights awards. She has worked for more than 25 years promoting and protecting cultural rights by fostering policies and projects designed in culturally sensitive ways to support the rights of marginalized sectors, including women, peasants, and religious and ethnic minorities. At present, she is the Executive Director of Shirkat Gah-Women's Resource Centre in Pakistan.</p>
<p><b>Chenjerai Hove</b></p> 	<p>Chenjerai Hove is a prominent poet, novelist, playwright, essayist and human rights activist. A vocal critic of the regime of Robert Mugabe, Hove was forced to flee Zimbabwe in 2001 and has, ever since, lived in exile in France, Norway and the USA. He currently lives and works in Stavanger, Norway, where he was an ICORN guest writer from 2005-2007. Hove is the author of several noteworthy and award-winning works of fiction, poetry, and essays including his novels, <i>Shadows</i> and <i>Bones</i>, which won the Zimbabwe Literary Award and the Noma Award for Publishing In Africa.</p>
<p><b>Khaled Harara</b></p> 	<p>Khaled Harara is a well-known Palestinian rapper from Gaza. He is known for his many songs which discuss recent political events in Palestine from a humanitarian and social perspective, like: the internal Palestinian divisions, the lack of freedom of expression under Hamas' rule, and the wrongdoings of a politicised Islam. Harara's work as a hip-hop artist, his artistic expression, texts and performances, has caused him numerous confrontations with the current Hamas authorities in Gaza, and he is facing threats from members of the movement who have clamped down on all forms of artistic expression, in particular music and literature. Harara is currently ICORN guest writer in Gothenburg, Sweden</p>

<p><b>Vahid Evazzadeh</b></p> 	<p>Vahid Evazzadeh is a filmmaker by profession and an artist/intellectual compelled by life. He was born in Iran and lived there until the year 2001. Since then he lives in "Europe" with a permanganate name-tag on his door in Copenhagen. He directs and produces artistic, cultural and socially relevant projects that challenge the status quo both artistically and production-wise. He specialises in training performers (actors and dancers) with the method he has created in the last seven years. At the moment he is also studying political science and economics at Copenhagen Business School.</p>
<p><b>Ole Reitov</b></p> 	<p>Ole Reitov is Director and co-founder of Freemuse - The World Forum on Music &amp; Censorship. He produced the first ever World Conference on Artistic Freedom "All that is banned is desired" in Oslo 2012 and initiated the global network for advocacy and protection of artistic freedom - artsfex.org. In 2012 he served as consultant to the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. He is a former broadcaster and foreign correspondent to Swedish and Danish Broadcasting.</p>
<p><b>Dearbhal Murphy</b></p> 	<p>Dearbhal Murphy is Deputy General Secretary of FIA – The International Federation of Actors. FIA is an international non-governmental organisation representing performers' trade unions, guilds and associations around the world. It voices the professional concerns and interests of actors (in film, television, radio, theatre and live performance), broadcast professionals, dancers, singers, variety and circus artists and others. Murphy has worked in FIA since 2008 and has helped develop the organisation's political commitment to the protection of artistic freedom and drive forward its work on the themes of gender equality, mobility and the social status of artists worldwide.</p>
<p><b>Mary Honeyball</b></p> 	<p>Mary Honeyball is a British MEP and entered the European Parliament in 2000, following three decades of involvement in Labour politics. Since becoming an MEP she has taken a special interest in women's issues, and acts as the Labour spokesperson for women's rights and gender equality. In addition, she has been a member of the Culture and Education Committee since 2009. She has contributed to securing important advances, including measures to tackle child safety online and steps to broaden employment and learning opportunities for Europe's youth.</p>
<p><b>Cecilia Wikström</b></p> 	<p>Cecilia Wikström was born in 1965 and raised in Kalix, but has lived in Uppsala since the 1980's. She holds a bachelor degree in theology from the University of Uppsala, and has been a practising priest in the Swedish Church since 1994. In 2002, Cecilia Wikström was elected to the Swedish parliament. She was re-elected in 2006, representing the liberal party, Folkpartiet Liberalerna. Since 2009, Cecilia Wikström is a Member of the European Parliament. She is a member of the Legal Affairs Committee and the Civil Liberties Justice and Home Affairs Committee.</p>
<p><b>Malika Benarab-Attou</b></p> 	<p>Is a French MEP and was elected in June 2009. She is a member of the Greens/ European Free Alliance Group. She is a member of the Parliamentary committees on Foreign Affairs and Education and Culture. Benarab-Attou is also Vice-Chair of the Delegation Euro-Mediterranean and a member of the Delegation Maghreb. She was very involved in civil society activism in the 1980s among young people in Lyon from an immigrant background and was committed from an early age to the cause of young immigrants and to anti-racism work. Benarab-Attou holds dear her double French-Algerian nationality and her commitment to North African issues has been part of her political work.</p>

**Marietje Schaake**

Marietje Schaake is a Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Democratic Party (D66) with the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) political group. She serves on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where she focuses on neighbourhood policy, Turkey in particular; human rights, with a specific focus on freedom of expression, internet freedom, press freedom; and Iran. In the Committee on Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports she works on Europe's Digital Agenda and the role of culture and new media in the EU's external actions. In the Committee on International Trade she focuses on intellectual property rights, the free flow of information and the relation between trade and foreign affairs.

**Marie-Paule Roudil**

Is the Head of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels and the UNESCO Representative to the European Union Roudil began her career in 1986 as a lawyer at the Cour de Paris (Paris Court). She then joined UNESCO in 1990, as a consultant in the Social and Human Sciences Sector. From January 2003 to September 2010, Ms Roudil was the Head of the Culture Section in the UNESCO Office in Venice, where she was responsible for developing and implementing a culture strategy for South-East Europe. Roudil now works to develop close coordination and cooperation of UNESCO with the European Union institutions and to strengthen the visibility of the Organisation and its actions in the European landscape, identifying common areas of action and informing headquarters on the EU's policies and decisions.