

Consultation on the revision of the EMU membership fees system and definition of the observer status

Please note that this document is meant as basis for discussion. The board of the EMU has identified the two issues laid out in this document and developed proposals to solve these. It is meant to inform the members on the reflections and discussions that have taken place within the board and to prepare further discussions with the members. No voting will take place at this year's General Assembly.

EMU membership fee system

Since its foundation in 1973, the calculation of the EMU's membership fees has been based on a social system. The initial calculation foresaw a basic fee (that was the same for every association) plus a fee for every music school member of the association. This meant that larger associations with more members paid a higher membership fee than smaller associations with less members.

At the General Assembly in Lubljana, Slovenia in 2001, the delegates discussed and adopted a new system: From 2002 on, the membership fees were calculated on the total expenses of all music schools member of an association. The delegates thus improved the initial system, as the amount of the membership fee was not only influenced by the number of members of an association, but also by their economic situation. This basic system is still in place today and while no system will ever be felt to be perfect, the current one is well established and accepted within the membership of the EMU.

However, during the last collection of statistics from the members (which also includes the question on the total budget of all music schools that serves as the basis for the calculation of the fees) some difficulties with the current system became obvious. These are related to several factors: Due to the different systems for music education in the individual countries, the budget of the music schools can strongly differ. For instance, in some countries, costs for the teaching staff or building are paid for directly by the municipalities, while in other countries these are part of the budget of a music school. In some countries even, an individual budget for the music school can only hardly be indicated because of their administrative structure. Furthermore, some national associations do not collect these kinds of figures at all. Those who do, on the other hand, produce results which can only hardly be compared across European country borders because of the reasons laid out above. Therefore, the basic social system for assessing the fees is strongly distorted.

The board of the EMU therefore proposes a further improvement to the system. The guiding idea behind it is to maintain the established system in which the amount of the membership fee is influenced by the size of an association and the economic situation, while at the same time finding objective criteria to assess these. The board therefore proposes a system that is based on two factors: the size of the association (number of member music schools as indicated in the statistics) and the GDP per capita of a given country (as indicated by the International Monetary Fund). The proposed formula for the calculation of the fees is as follows:

$$\text{(GDP Factor + Association Factor) x Basic Fee}$$

Both the GDP and association factors will be set according to the table below. The exact amount of the basic fee is yet to be defined. Should this proposal find overall agreement within the membership, the board will propose a basic fee which will allow for a stable financial situation of the EMU, comparable to its current income from membership fees.

GDP per capita (in U.S. dollars)	GDP Factor	Number of member music schools	Association Factor
Below 10.000	1	Below 10	1
10.000 to 20.000	2	10 to 20	2
20.000 to 30.000	3	20 to 50	3
30.000 to 40.000	4	50 to 100	4
40.000 to 50.000	5	100 to 200	5
50.000 to 60.000	6	200 to 300	6
60.000 to 70.000	7	300 to 500	7
Above 70.000	8	Above 500	8

Definition of the observer status

The statutes of the EMU clearly define that only one organisation per country can be member. This governance model ensures equality between the countries represented within the EMU as all of them have only one voting right. In the past however, the EMU has accepted further members from one country as observer members – be it for geopolitical reasons or simply because music schools are organised in more than one association in individual countries. This system has allowed the EMU to be true to its role as the umbrella organisation for European music schools while at the same time preserving the principle of equality between its members as observers are not entitled to vote. While this has proven to be a feasible solution for the specific situation in individual countries, there is no respective point in the statutes of the EMU nor is there a clear definition of the rights and obligations of observers that was discussed and adopted by the General Assembly. Because of this, different rules and procedures have been applied to observer members in the past.

The board of the EMU therefore wishes to discuss and eventually adopt clear definitions and procedures for handling observer members. The following points were agreed on within the board and are herewith brought for discussion to the General Assembly:

- Firstly, it must be clear that observers are not meant as competition to ordinary members in the individual countries. Only ordinary members are entitled to vote at the General Assembly and to propose candidates to the board of the EMU. Observer members do not have these rights.

- The procedure for accepting observer members should be similar to the one for ordinary members: Parties interested in joining the EMU as an observer first contact the board. The board assesses the application, which includes consulting with the ordinary member in the same country (if there is one). If the board feels the application is suitable for an observer member, it is brought to the General Assembly. The General Assembly votes on the admission of observer members.
- The duration of the observer membership is not limited in time.
- The membership fee for observer members is calculated according to the system laid out above, however with a slightly lower basic fee.
- Representatives of observer members must cover the cost for attending General Assemblies themselves.