

NEWSLETTER

EMIA sends appeal to European Union: musical instruments are not luxury goods!

Berlin,
19.05.2022

EMIA supports sanctions against Russia imposed by the European Union. In this context, however, the EU has made a statement that needs to be clarified in principle:

Musical instruments are not luxury goods!

The EMIA has therefore appealed to the responsible bodies and politicians in the EU - with the request that this be laid down in principle.

The letter states, among other things: "However, we would like to point out that a fundamental distinction must be made here, which is of elementary importance for the cultural identity of Europe: **cultural goods, which undoubtedly include musical instruments, are not luxury goods!**"

The reason given in the appeal makes it clear:

"Luxury goods are by definition described as expensive, high-quality, actually "superfluous" goods with high prestige, which cover a "can do" necessity and which are also unaffordable for most people. Fundamentally, musical instruments have the character of a "must need" necessity – especially because they play a key role in education. Musical instruments – and the music "made" with them – are part of the basic supply, the cultural identity and the basis of human life. Especially in times of crisis, art and cultural products (culture heritage) are more important than ever for a free, democratic community. Therefore we ask the European Union to make a fundamental and clear statement at this point: The musical instrument is a cultural heritage and not a luxury good."

In the opinion of the EMIA, it is absolutely necessary to finally bring about clarification here in order - once and for all - to avoid ambiguities and legal uncertainty for the MI industry in the future.

European Musical
Instrument Alliance (EMIA)
– in alphabetical order:



We will keep you informed of further developments.

Background: European Musical Instrument Alliance (EMIA)

The European Musical Instrument Alliance (EMIA) is an association of major European trade associations in the musical instrument industry. It sees itself as a forum and discourse space for relevant national and international associations and organisations with the aim of identifying, discussing, shaping and optimising the economic and legal framework conditions for all areas of the musical instrument industry and addressing them vis-à-vis politicians.

The EMIA stands up for the cultural and economic interests of the musical instrument and music equipment industry on a national and European level, with the aim of strengthening the competitiveness of the industry in all market sectors, helping to shape the political and legal framework conditions according to the requirements of the industry, and promoting up-to-date further and advanced training in music, as well as intensifying active music making and music skills in society.

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