

Open Letter to:
The Landlord of Folkteatern Göteborg
Folkets Hus (People's House), Göteborg
Sweden

#KeepFolkteaternGöteborgOpen

Berlin 29 November 2022

Dear landlord of Folkteatern Göteborg, dear representatives of Folkets Hus Göteborg,

Folkteatern Göteborg is a member theatre of Europe's largest network of public theatres, the European Theatre Convention (ETC). ETC is Europe's cultural network representing theatres and its interests on a European level in dialogue with the European Commission. As largest organization of its kind, it gathers 57 theatres from 31 countries. ETC reflects the diversity of Europe's vibrant cultural sector. Founded in 1988 it promotes European theatre as a vital platform for dialogue, democracy and interaction that responds to, reflects, and engages with today's diverse audiences and changing societies.

We understand from the arising protests within Sweden and from our member Folkteatern Göteborg, that the conditions put forward by you, the landlord of Folkteatern Göteborg, threaten the existence of the theatre, risking shutting down a very important, artistically, and socially relevant cultural institution within the city of Göteborg, the region of Västra Götaland, and for its citizens. The benefits provided by a thriving cultural scene are known - for a city, it's local community and regional surroundings, for the people living in these areas. A theatre, a place of gathering, an agora of an open democratic public space, is part of Europe's rich cultural heritage and creates part of our innovative future. Theatre as a place for performing arts - bringing together music, drama, dance and social engagements - are an essential part of Europe, and our cities reflect this. A city like Göteborg should be able to have several theatres placed in its city.

The highly professional cultural institution Folkteatern Göteborg belongs to Europe's cultural avantgarde. Its work radiates and is presented across Europe, this summer it was invited to the world-renowned Festival d'Avignon in France, during the Covid-19 pandemic it created a digital stage leading the way for others. We demand that negotiations with Folkteatern Göteborg will not jeopardize its existence, but are dealt with in a fair way, enabling all parties' interests to be

considered for the larger benefit of the common good, referring to the joint values in creating synergies and clusters to enable our societies and its people to thrive, in envisioning the future - with theatre as a public space for an open society in Europe.

These positions were brought forward earlier this year by ETC towards the European Commission, as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe. We believe Europe needs to remain an avant-garde place, driven by ideas, content, and values. If we want to face the complex global challenges, all stakeholders must put policy into practice and join forces with leading partners in innovation, research and education, bringing the culture and talents of our next generation together to pave the way for the future we want to create.

A Europe of the future, and its cities of the future, must develop a resilient theatre sector by

- Supporting pioneering theatre that is as diverse as our local communities
- Taking steps towards a climate-neutral and sustainable theatre sector
- Continuing to lead the way towards accessible theatre in a post-Covid world

ETC stands in solidarity with Folkteatern Göteborg and calls upon you to urgently settle all outstanding negotiations to **#KeepFolkteaternGöteborgOpen**.

Sincerely yours,



Heidi Wiley
Executive Director