

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's brought you to the decision to terminate EMBA?

The increasingly difficult operating environment.

EUBO has historically survived on grants from the EU. The quality of EUBO's music-making has amply justified this and our designation as an EU Cultural Ambassador. Moreover, we've always been a small organisation with low overheads.

In *Creative Europe*, the latest iteration of the EU's funding vehicle, EMBA is co-funded by the EU and structured around a partnership of 10 organisations from across the EU of which EUBO is lead partner. It requires EUBO to raise significant sums from other sources, not only to fund operating costs but also to provide the EC with a substantial financial guarantee against its advanced funding. Against the uncertainty and insecurity of Brexit, this has become just too difficult.

We have managed the situation successfully for the first two years of the EMBA project's planned four-year lifetime. At the midway point, we have no hesitation in declaring EMBA a success. But we have been unable to secure from private sources the necessary bank guarantee required to release the EU's grant for the 3rd and 4th cycles of the project.

The Board has therefore decided that, once we have fully fulfilled all commitments under the 2nd cycle of the EMBA project (up to and including the March 2017 tour), EUBO should terminate its musical activities under the EMBA project. It will take us a month or two longer to fulfil all its administrative requirements. EUBO will subsequently wind down its UK operation

We have hitherto met all the terms of *Creative Europe's* demanding funding conditions, and remain in good standing with the European Commission and its cultural agency, EACEA - just as we have for over 25 years. We have no argument with either; they have treated us fairly and, over many years, generously.

How does Brexit affect EUBO?

Brexit will mean vastly more burdensome travelling and employment procedures for our young musicians who come from across the continent and perform in a different country every night. And our current administrative

home in the UK will doubtless affect our access to EU funding in future. That's why we are so pleased that AMUZ are keen to give EUBO a new legal and organisational home in Belgium.

Travelling musicians are fundamental to the EUBO concept – a characteristic of Europe's musical heritage since before baroque times. Today's 25-strong band comprises young musicians from 12 EU countries typically performing in a different country every night. We are keen to avoid sacrificing that or our "EU" ambassador status.

What does EUBO@AMUZ entail?

AMUZ will provide EUBO with a long-term home in the EU. Antwerp will also provide a solid local base in which to build up following and financial support.

EUBO in Belgium will be a new operation, up and running we hope by 2018. EUBO in the UK will cease to be. We have still to work out the details, and the transition will doubtless be a complex challenge for both sides. But we are confident of EUBO's future under AMUZ's wing. Paul James and Emma Wilkinson are likely to be involved at least in the short term. AMUZ is already in discussion with several grant-making organisations, and you can see a parallel announcement from AMUZ (in Flemish) here: <https://issuu.com/amuzantwerpen/docs/amuz-eubo-2017-issuu>

What does this mean for EMBA?

We are determined to wind down the EMBA project at its midway point in an orderly way, meeting the terms of the EU's grant to date and doing good by our partners and friends. We are in discussion with the European Commission/EACEA about how best to achieve this.

We don't anticipate that any of our EMBA partners will suffer financially in the sense that all receipted expenditure for completed activities under the EMBA project to date (1st and 2nd cycles) will be reimbursed from the EU grant when we submit what will be the Final Project Report. Their help in enabling EUBO to account with receipts for that expenditure in a timely way will be vital to that end. We shall obviously be in close touch with each of our Partners about what is required of them and by when.

However, planned activities in the 3rd and 4th cycles will not now take place, and this will doubtless cause inconvenience, embarrassment and loss of anticipated revenue. We are very sorry about this.

Following the completion of the 2nd cycle of EMBA and submission of the Final Project Report, Paul and Emma, together with EUBO's board of trustees, will devote their energies in 2017 to ensuring a smooth transition to EUBO @ AMUZ in a way that secures EUBO's long-term sustainability and success.

Couldn't you have warned us earlier?

We are making this announcement of our plans at the earliest possible opportunity. It is not EUBO's transition to AMUZ which has brought about the termination of the EMBA project, but the loss of private finance providing the necessary bank guarantee on which our taking receipt of the next tranche of the EU's grant is dependent. This has only just become apparent.

What does this mean for the EUBO auditions planned for April 2017 in Echternach?

These will not now take place. We are really sorry to disappoint the talented young musicians who may have hoped to take part. And we are particularly sorry to have inconvenienced the plans of the busy course tutors who had agreed to take part. We know how difficult this is for them.

What happens next is for AMUZ to decide. But there is an expectation that AMUZ will hold auditions for a new EUBO band in 2018.

What does this mean for EUBO concerts planned for 2017?

EUBO's concerts in York, Cambridge, Antwerp and The Hague in March, directed by Lars Ulrik Mortensen, will complete EMBA's 2nd cycle. EMBA's 3rd and 4th cycles will not now happen, and so most planned concerts in 2017 will probably not take place.

We are however expecting to hold an event on 19 May at St John's Smith Square.

And EUBO concerts in 2018 and 2019?

Those too will be for AMUZ to determine; we shall do our best to persuade AMUZ to look positively at the possibility of proceeding with these. But that is some way off for now.

Where does this leave EMBA Partners?

If all goes well, not out of pocket. We are striving to ensure financial commitments for engagements arising out of the 1st and 2nd annual cycles are met. We have worked at close quarters with our partners these past two years; they know how much EUBO has put into EMBA; they have endured the pain with us; they understand what has led us to this difficult decision. We are proud of our joint achievements, and hugely grateful to them for their support and cooperation.