

Courtesy Translation

*Symposium "Opera Houses and Music Festivals in Central and Eastern Europe:
Looking for New Talents and New Audiences."*

Trieste, 21 June 2014

Message from Hon. Dario Franceschini, Minister for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism

I wish to extend my cordial greetings to the authorities and representatives of all agencies and foundations, theatres and festivals who have gathered here in Trieste, on the occasion of today's music festival, for an international symposium of particular relevance to the themes and objectives, which greatly attract the attention of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities.

I congratulate the Central European Initiative for promoting - in agreement with the Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste - this important meeting aimed on encouraging future synergies and cooperation in a European perspective. The involvement of the Ravenna Festival Foundation also promotes the sharing of important examples of collaboration with the Teatro Verdi. I am referring in particular to the concert, taking place on 6 July at the Memorial Chapel in Redipuglia. This will give way to the official commemoration of the centenary of the First World War.

In the heart of the "new Europe", Trieste, with its renowned cultural vibrancy and traditional cosmopolitanism, is the ideal venue to give voice to the common heritage of opera, symphonic and ethnic-folk music in the Member States of the Central European Initiative. Its vocation to artistic and multidisciplinary creativity is well-known.

On the eve of the Italian Presidency of the European Union, I wish to express my appreciation for the attention this symposium has devoted to the access opportunities to European funds. Culture is one of the engines of growth, development and employment; the use of the

opportunities offered by Europe should therefore be encouraged and strengthened, especially taking into account the special attention paid by Italy to Central Europe, the South West Balkans and to the Eastern Partnership, as part of its foreign policy initiatives and promotion of our "country system".

I wish today's symposium every success, hoping it shall bring about real prospects of cooperation at international level, for the benefit of the development and promotion of common European cultural and artistic heritage.