

Written evidence submitted by the Musicians Union (FRE0093)

1. The MU represents over 32,000 professional musicians working across all sectors of the UK music industry.
2. We continue to lobby for musicians to be able to tour easily and with minimal admin throughout the EU post-Brexit. The current UK position in the free trade negotiations with the EU means that carnets could be required, even for musicians travelling with their own instruments, and performers are not satisfactorily covered by either the 'independent professional' or 'short term business visitor' sections of the draft agreement.
3. The section of the agreement covering independent professionals could mean the duration of stay is limited to the duration of the contract, which in our members' case could be one gig. 6 years experience and a university degree are also required. The short term business visitor route is problematic because it says you can't sell goods or services to the public during your stay, so that means no merch at gigs in theory. It is unclear whether a band touring and selling their own tickets to an event would be selling a service, so this needs clarification. The short term business visitor route as drafted does, however, offer 90 days of work in a 180 day period which would be sufficient for the majority of our members.
4. The MU lobbied against Brexit primarily because of the likely impact on our members' ability to tour and work in the EU post-Brexit. Musicians visit multiple countries on tour, often jumping across borders on a daily basis, often with very little notice. If every musician has to get a work permit and carnet for every country they visit, it will make any work in Europe impossible to schedule regardless of whether they are an emerging band or a world-renowned orchestra.
5. We are working with UK Music to try to influence the trade negotiations and ensure musicians and crew are satisfactorily covered, our key asks are as follows:
 - The continued ability for musicians and crew from the EU to tour and perform here, including as part of unpaid showcase events, with minimal admin;
 - The continued ability for UK musicians and crew to work and tour across multiple EU territories with minimal admin and with a single process in place, i.e. no territorial variations.
 - No double taxation for UK musicians working in the EU and no A1 forms
 - No carnets for individual musicians transporting their instruments and equipment into and around the EU
 - The ability to sell merchandise at gigs when on tour in the EU
6. We believe this should be achievable, although unfortunately the Covid-19 crisis has taken the spotlight and time away from the trade negotiations. We will keep liaising

with government officials and MPs in order to ensure our points are reflected in drafting.

7. More than 82,000 people have signed our petition to ensure that musicians continue to be able to travel easily and cheaply after Brexit:

<https://www.change.org/p/government-parliament-let-touring-musicians-travel-support-musicians-working-in-the-eu-post-brex-it-working-in-the-eu>

August 2020



Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Email: freucom@parliament.uk Website: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/366/committee-on-the-future-relationship-with-the-european-union/>

23 July 2020

Horace Trubridge
General Secretary
The Musicians Union

Dear Mr Trubridge,

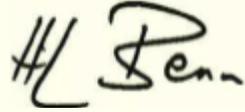
The House of Commons Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union is inquiring into the progress of the negotiations between the UK and the EU. Under normal circumstances, the Committee holds regular oral evidence sessions in Westminster. However, measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus make this difficult.

The Committee is keen to gather as much evidence as possible to inform its deliberations so I am writing to you to ask whether you would be willing to help us with our work by making a written submission. We welcome general responses to our [call for evidence](#), which was published on 4 March. We also hope that you would be willing to answer some of the more specific questions set out below on issues that fall within your area of expertise. Submissions need not address every bullet point and can include other matters that you think are relevant to the negotiations and should be drawn to the attention of the Committee.

- Given the two draft legal texts, what does the EU legal text cover and what does the UK legal text cover when it talks about mobility and short-term visits without the need for a visa?
- What are the major differences between the two positions on mobility in the negotiations? How would you explain any differences? Given the two positions, what do they appear to agree on?
- What could be the barriers to an agreement on mobility being negotiated this year? To what extent will the rules for British people wishing to work in the EU, be determined by an EU wide agreement or by domestic law in the UK and each Member State?
- What types of economic activity, and sectors of the UK economy, currently benefit from being able to move staff between the UK and EU Member States temporarily or for longer periods?
- Given the likely scope of a future agreement on mobility, how will this affect exports of UK services? In particular, for (a) businesses wishing to move staff between the UK and the EU, and (b) the self-employed and freelancers?
- What should businesses be doing now to prepare for the likely outcome of the negotiations on mobility and social security coordination?
- How might it affect those engaged in activities relating to culture, education, or science and innovation? How will it affect British people who wish to make short term visits to an EU Member State for non work-related activities? And EU citizens who wish to make similar visits to the UK? What will this mean for family visits or tourism?
- How does any agreement on mobility interact with an agreement on social security coordination? How might an agreement on social security differ to what operates at the moment? Are there any international examples that might serve as useful precedents?
- What will be the legal basis for any fall-back options on 1 January 2021 in the event of no agreement being reached on mobility and social security coordination?

The Committee staff will be happy to discuss the inquiry, any issues raised, or the process for submitting written evidence. You can contact them at freucom@parliament.uk.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H/ Benn'.

Hilary Benn
Chair of the Committee