



Mayor of Budapest  
Mr István Tarlós  
Budapest  
Hungary

Novi Sad, October 21, 2011

Dear Mr István Tarlós,

We, the 46 members of the European Theatre Convention representing 25 countries and thus being the largest theatre network in Europe, protest against the oppression of well-known artists in Hungary. As we have learned, the Hungarian political authorities expelled many renowned theatre directors from their positions for political reasons. These procedures violate the basic principles of artistic freedom and integrity and are opposed to the best traditions of European culture. Mr István Márta was recommended by a committee of experts to continue his work as managing director of the Új Színház of Budapest. We protest against the mayor's decision to neglect the vote of the experts. The ETC has accepted the Új Színház as one of its members, because of the artistic achievements made under the direction of Mr István Márta. The ETC looks with great concern on actions setting aside professional and artistic qualifications in favour of political interests. A 'backland' theatre draws the Új Színház back to the past which Hungarian artists have long overcome. Being concerned about this development, the members of the ETC request the mayor of Budapest to reconsider his position.

Yours sincerely,

on behalf of all the members of the ETC,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dubravka Vrgoc', written over a horizontal line.

Dubravka Vrgoc

President of the ETC

**European Theatre Convention - Convention Théâtrale Européenne**

**Executive office**

c/o Deutsches Theater · Schumannstr. 13 a · 10117 Berlin · Germany  
T +49 (0)30 28441 460 · F +49 (0)30 28441 488  
E [convention@etc-cte.org](mailto:convention@etc-cte.org)

**EU office**

c/o European House for Culture  
Place Flagey 18 · 1050 Brussels · Belgium

**[www.etc-cte.org](http://www.etc-cte.org)**

**Head office**

c/o La Comédie de Saint-Etienne  
7 Avenue Emile Loubet · 42048 Saint Etienne cedex · France  
Association loi 1901  
N° Siret 379 738 230 00018 · CODE APE 913 E

Bank Crédit Coopératif  
IBAN FR76 4255 9000 1741 0200 2023 864 · BIC CCOPFRPPXXX