

Skopje, 28/11/2020

Dear friends,

We are deeply concerned regarding your letter informing us about the Government of Republic of Slovenia's decision to cancel the financing of the Slovenian film fund. Such a decision places all engaged in the film industry in a situation of uncertainty. Despite the difficult conditions amidst the health crisis caused by the pandemics governments make efforts to maintain continuity in all segments of cinematography and film art and industry. The above mentioned should be undertaken by the Government of Republic of Slovenia and it should take into consideration that film workers and their projects are more necessary at present than ever before. It is incomprehensible because culture and, with it, film culture is an integral inevitable part of social life in a democratic country. It also implies taking away the right to creation, the right to work on what one can do best so as to be productive and useful segment of a civilized society.

The International Festival of Film Camera "Manaki Brothers" and the audience in Bitola, have always looked forward and admired the creations of Slovenian film professional. The audience of this festival, which has been the promoter of film art, is familiar with the names of Vilko Filach, Jure Pervanja, Karpo Godina, Rado Likon, Damjan Kozole, Valentin Perko, Simon Tanshek, Jure Cherenec.. Behind their films there are teams, behind the teams there are names, authors, people, lives that are to be filled, a well thought of mission in nurturing film culture and education. Slovenian authors' film have held a special spot in the programme of our festival, which is the oldest and most famous international film festival in Republic of North Macedonia and the first festival worldwide that celebrates and awards the creation of cinematographers.

With this letter we plead the Government of Republic of Slovenia to withdraw this devastating decision because film artists must be treated with dignity not excluded. ICF "Manaki Brothers" gives great support to all associations of film professionals in Republic of Slovenia to endure in

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these difficult times with hope that soon a solution would be found for all their projects to be completed and they would be rewarded accordingly for their efforts.

With sincere respect,

Gena Teodosievska
Director of ICF "Manaki Brothers"