

High-level meeting scheduled to help Brussels understand music industry issues

# Impala urges EU to act on piracy

## Organisations

By Robert Ashton

**IMPALA IS TO PRESS** key Belgian and European Commission officials to take a lead on measures designed to combat piracy, among other issues.

In preparation for the change in EU presidency next month, the association has set a meeting for tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Musées Royaux des Beaux Arts de Belgique.

Impala's co-presidents – Naïve's Patrick Zelnik, PIAS' Michel Lambot and k7's Horst Weidenmueller – and 20-strong board will meet with five European Commissioners, four ministerial-level Belgian officials and various key MEPs to discuss issues such as finance, the Commission's view on mergers, the future of collecting societies and the digital market.

Meeting Beggars Group's Martin Mills, AIM's chairman and CEO Alison Wenham and Cooking



Patrick Zelnik

Vinyl's Martin Goldschmidt, will be President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, Commissioner for Competition Joaquín Almunia, Commissioner for the Digital Agenda Neelie Kroes and Commissioner for Culture Androulla Vassiliou.

The Secretary General of the French speaking community, Frederic Delcor, will represent the incoming Belgian presidency of the EU, which starts on July 1 and runs until December. The Secretary of State in charge of the Belgian Presidency, Olivier Chastel, and the two Ministers for Culture, Joke Schauvliege and Fadila Laanan, who recently launched a national level music industry support plan, will also attend.

Impala executive chair Helen

Smith says the top-level discussions are designed to keep a dialogue going with those people "making decisions in Brussels."

"The idea is to introduce new people in the European Parliament and Commission to the board so they understand how the music sector is operating today," adds Smith, who reveals there will be a packed agenda to plough through at the Independent Music Summit.

"The EC has put a lot of weight on cultural SMEs [Small and Medium Enterprises] and this will help these people understand what it means in practice to operate as one of these highly cherished organisations."

Smith and her team want to make several concrete proposals. After months of consultations with members it has produced its own code of conduct for collecting societies (see box), which it hopes will be adopted at the meeting and can be fed into the EC's ongoing review of collecting societies.

Smith and her team also want to persuade the EC and the officials they meet next week to take a lead on measures directed at ISPs to combat piracy.

"This piecemeal approach from member states that we have had so far takes too long. We need a clear EC-wide steer from the Commission," she adds.

Similarly, Smith anticipates with all the speculation surrounding EMI and EMI Publishing there may be

another major music merger at some point in the future. She adds, "We need to make sure there is an understanding of what our position is with mergers and that if EMI and Warner are going to merge then there are some real remedies."

Impala will also draw attention to the lack of finance available to music SMEs in the UK and across Europe and point to the soccer-style transfer fee proposal it made earlier this year.

That plan, partly inspired by the experiences of big and small football clubs, calls for a 5% compensation fee on all future revenues of artists developed at a smaller label and later signed by a major.

It also recommends a revenue-sharing system, where a percentage of revenues is re-allocated within the sector to fund new music and help SMEs compete.

Belgium is taking over the presidency of the EC from the Spanish on July 1, which once again throws up the challenge of whether copyright term can be pushed through during the remainder of this session.

Extension was voted through the European Parliament last year, with the backing of the Spanish and British Governments, but it has got bogged down in the Council and will require the presidency to push for it.

However, Belgium was one of a dozen member states which did not support the move.

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## Impala code of conduct for collecting societies

Impala is basically asking for three things with its code for collecting societies:

- To get rid of processes which discriminate against smaller labels in practice (for example, membership rules and dealing with unclaimed monies)

- To make sure money spent on anti-piracy benefits all members (and not for individual profit or market leverage)

- To set aside a minimum of 5% of society revenues to distribute on a "solidarity" or "diversity" basis (for example, for new talent)

# BBC 2's countrywide summer of live music

**RADIO 2 IS TAKING** its In Concert series to Scotland, as Paolo Nutini returns to his hometown of Paisley to perform a one-off gig as part of the station's summer of live music.

In addition to Nutini's appearance in August, the BBC station has a raft of live music planned over the summer including:

- Cambridge Folk Festival. A three-hour special will be broadcast within an extended Mike Harding show on August 4, presenting highlights from the festival, with performances aired throughout the day.

- Maryport Festival in Cumbria. Paul Jones will host a Radio 2 Blues night on July 26, with interviews and performances from the festival.

- Radio 2 In Concert, the station's regular Thursday night live music show, has gigs from artists including Jack Johnson and Scissor Sisters coming up. On August 19 Paolo Nutini performs a hometown gig at the University of West Scotland in Paisley for In Concert.

- Weekend Wogan has live performances from Paloma Faith, Sandi Thom, Rick Astley and Nerina Pallot.

- The Radcliffe & Maconie show will feature performances from artists including Suzanne Vega (tonight (Monday)), Lucky Soul and Cherry Ghost.

- Dermot O'Leary's Saturday show has sessions from artists including Phoenix and Grizzly Bear.

The station will also be sharing live content with other BBC stations over the summer, including running live Glastonbury performances captured for 6Music on its In Concert strand.

Radio 2 and 6 Music head of music Jeff Smith says he is particularly excited about covering live events outside of London.

"I love the idea we are getting outside of London with Radio 2 Live," he says. "I often get people saying they wish they could hear In Concert around the UK. I am also



Hometown gig: Paolo Nutini

pleased we are making a big thing of the specialist programmes we have."

Radio 2 is also looking to live events to promote its online offering, with Paolo Nutini's performance available to watch for seven

days on [bbc.co.uk/radio2](http://bbc.co.uk/radio2).

"We have done a lot of [cross-platform activity] already and we are looking to do more," says Smith. "We are trying to drive media literacy within our audience."

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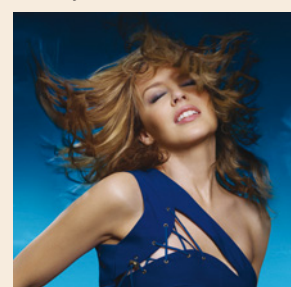


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