



## Resolution of the Executive Committee For a global policy on night-time

Milano, 24 October 2014

The tempo of nightlife has an impact on the use of public spaces, the needs of residents and the nature of the activities carried out. At night, different kinds of people cross each other's path or live side by side. Because of the potential conflicts between the city that sleeps, the city that plays and the city that works, we must adopt new ways of thinking the concept of peaceful coexistence. Indeed, coexistence is different at night. Conflicts about the use of spaces at night-time are mainly focused on public spaces and this requires that public authorities, and in particular local ones, adopt a new approach.

Local elected officials must meet the challenge of finding a balance between prevention and prohibition, regulation and management of night-time. Public policies must take into account the characteristics of nightlife and the fact that public spaces are used differently at night, compared to daytime.

Far from considering night-time solely a problem area, Efus considers that there are also many opportunities linked to it. Indeed, night-time is essential to developing the culture, the social fabric, and the economy and tourist industry of a place.

Efus has been working on night-time activities from 1993 onwards, through the international project "Decibel: Nightclubs, Music, Drugs, Alcohol and Road Safety". Since then, the Forum has been involved in various programmes<sup>1</sup> both at the national and European level, which deal with security issues linked to substance abuse, festive events and nightlife.

Efus consolidated its doctrine on problems linked to excessive consumption of alcohol in public spaces in the recommendations published in 2013 as a result of the European project Safer Drinking Scenes. Cities called for more responsible consumption, for regulating alcohol consumption in order to improve the quality of nightlife, and for risk anticipation strategies.

At the final conference of the project in Nantes, partner cities called for drafting integrated local strategies founded on a balance between public health and public security. This approach to intervention combines human presence, prevention and

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<sup>1</sup> See Secutopic / "Fêtez Clair" / Working group of the FFSU on "Binge Drinking" (2007-2009) / European projects led by Efus Democracy Cities and Drugs I (2005-2007) and II (2008- 2011) / "Safer Drinking Scenes" (2010 / 2013) / Project "Security & Tourism" Efus (2013 -2015), which includes a section on nightlife / Promotion of health in party scenes, French National Institute for Prevention and Education to Health (Institut national de Prévention et d'Education à la Santé, INPES) (2013).

risk reduction as well as regulation, and is supported by partnerships and collaborative tools.

The *Manifesto of Aubervilliers and Saint-Denis* also recommends the development of a real pan-European culture on the subject of health and safety risk prevention strategies, especially regarding those risks linked to partying at night in public spaces. The emphasis in the development of this culture lies on constant dialogue and discussion of the most promising initiatives.

Alongside local and regional authorities, many stakeholders<sup>2</sup> in the nightlife scene pro-actively involve themselves in and advocate a positive, cross cutting and global approach. They all emphasise the importance of coordinating thematic networks capable of representing all relevant parties and their common vision of the night scene at a European level.

Indeed, throughout Europe, numerous local authority members of Efus are founding or developing initiatives centred around nightlife issues equipped with a specially designed structures and tools for action and observation. Some regional and local elected officials have "night life" as their official portfolio in their local government. Local authorities are also implementing experimental policies aiming to ensure the security of various sections of their communities. These experimental policies are designed both to match the constantly evolving dynamic of the "night owl" sections of their public and to provide these people with alternatives to partying, such as "sports nights" or alcohol-free meeting places.

Efus welcomes the fact that there is now a common doctrine on nightlife and that is now solid and shared among numerous stakeholders in politics, in institutions, in the voluntary sector, in the private sector, and by members of civil society. Efus would emphasise that local and regional authorities are best placed to coordinate exchange and action amongst these various groups because of their central position.

Members of Efus will set up a working group dedicated to the creation of a high-quality sustainable nightlife scene as part of a comprehensive, integrated strategy based on participation and co-operation, involving all relevant parties concerned.

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<sup>2</sup> Network "Culture Bar-Bars", networks NEW Net and Eurocare, network Party+, the Association of Artistic Cabarets and Nightclubs of France (Chambre Syndicale des Cabarets Artistiques et Discothèques de France, CSCAD), the French Society of Music Authors, Composers and Editors (Société des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Editeurs de Musique, SACEM).

