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Press release

Rolf Bolwin, newly elected President of Pearle*-Live Performance Europe, calls the new European Parliament to assert the role of culture

(Brussels, 27th May 2014) Pearle*-Live Performance Europe, the European association which represents through its members the interests of more than 5000 theatres, theatre production companies, orchestras and music ensembles, opera houses, ballet and dance companies, festivals, producers, comedy, variété, circus and other organisations, has elected at its 47th General Assembly meeting in Helsinki on 22-23 May, Rolf Bolwin, Managing Director of the German Orchestra and Theatre Association as the new President of Pearle*.

Bolwin succeeds Catherine Baumann, Director of the Synolyr –Association of orchestras and lyric theatres- in France, who resigned this year. Rolf Bolwin will share his tasks with Géza Kovács, President of AHO, the Association of Hungarian Orchestras, who has been elected as Vice-President.

Rolf Bolwin, thanking Catherine Baumann for her excellent leadership and for her commitment the past three years to represent the interest of the Pearle members, also made a strong statement in relation to the elections for the European Parliament, saying: *"I believe that more than ever, the European Parliament will have a responsibility to ensure a sustainable environment for the arts and culture. I look forward to cooperate with the newly elected European Parliament in achieving this goal"*.

Members of Pearle* also voted in favour of the candidacy of Malika Séguineau, the Chief Executive of Prodis – the Association of promoters, festivals and venues in popular music, musical and stand-up comedy-, to take the seat in the Executive Committee on behalf of the French members represented in Pearle*.

Finally, the members of Pearle* also welcome in the membership the national theatres of Portugal, and as an associate member Fevis Europe, an association regrouping vocal and instrumental specialised ensembles.

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