

23 August 2022

Volodymyr Zelenskyi, President of Ukraine

letter@apu.gov.ua

Your Excellency,

Since late February, ACE – Association des Cinémathèques Européennes and its member institutions have voiced their strong support for the freedom, integrity, and independence of Ukraine against the Russian invasion. This support continues and ACE is backing all practical manifestations of it.

The ACE would like to underline the importance of cultural heritage now, and after the Russian aggression ends, to the Ukrainian and international public, and as a resource for maintaining and strengthening national identity.

On behalf of the executive committee of ACE, I would like to express our concern regarding the recent developments concerning the Dovzhenko Centre.

It is important that the integrity of the collections of the Dovzhenko Centre be maintained, and that they continue to be preserved, made available for research and education purposes, and loaned to film festivals and other cultural events internationally. The Dovzhenko Centre has been an invaluable source for sharing Ukrainian culture and perspective, for our members and hundreds of other film institutions and festivals during these past six months, and the colleagues there are highly regarded within the international community. They have formed an essential part of the information network that has introduced Ukrainian arts to many new audiences around the world in this crucial time.

Some of the European film heritage institutions, especially those in the former Eastern bloc, have experienced various threats over the past decades. The post-communist experience of these countries encourages us to write to you and respectfully ask you to reconsider the decision of the Ukrainian State Film Agency of 5 August 2022, on the 'reorganization' of the Dovzhenko Centre.

As a member of the international film heritage institution community, the Dovzhenko Centre deserves all assistance and encouragement in their efforts to keep this institution running in the current form. We know that this institution has been working to high professional standards, and that their financial results have been respectable.

We appeal to the relevant authorities in Ukraine to keep intact the Dovzhenko Centre and enable the working teams of this institution to continue their mission in concert with other film heritage institutions in Europe.

Yours respectfully,



Michal Bregant, President of ACE

CC:

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