

Following the publication of the Government's EU negotiation mandate today, Thursday 27 February, it has become clear that the UK will not be seeking to participate in the next Creative Europe MEDIA programme, due to start in January 2021.

Ben Roberts, BFI Chief Executive said, "Whilst this is not the outcome our industry was hoping for, there is a clear economic case for continuing to support UK independent film internationally across the ecosystem. The independent sector does so much to drive the success of our world class film culture - including the producers, sales agents, distributors and exhibitors. It creates valuable exports, ensuring our content reaches new audiences and is the bedrock for our world-class talent.

"We need to build on the successes of Creative Europe MEDIA to make sure our industry has the necessary means to build strong international business relationships, that audiences worldwide are able to enjoy the full cultural diversity of UK film, and everyone in the UK has access to the widest range of world cinema. We are working with government to determine the best way to ensure we remain one of the world's leading screen industries."

Under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, the UK will continue to participate in the current Creative Europe programme until it ends in December 2020. UK projects are able to apply for funding up until this point, with successful applications receiving funding as normal, even where their funded activity is set to take place after December 2020.