

To:
European Broadcasting Union
Attn. Jon Ola Sand,
Executive Supervisor Eurovision Song Contest

ref.nr.: 16.044 /6.30.1

Amsterdam, April 29, 2016

Subject: Not banning the use of the rainbow flag in any way at ESC

Dear Jon Ola Sand,

I write to you with regard to the European Broadcasting Union's 'Eurovision Song Contest Official Flag Policy' that was published on April 29, 2016 by the Globe Arena and ticket agency AXS.

COC Nederland* is deeply worried about this document, especially about the paragraph on the use of rainbow flags. We insist that the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) will *not* ban the use of the rainbow flag *in any way* during the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC).

In the document that was published today, you suggest that the rainbow flag will only be tolerated during the contest if it is not used in a 'political' way.

We fear that this policy will lead to the disappearance of the rainbow flag from the Eurovision Song Contest. For in practice it seems impossible to distinguish between waving a rainbow flag in a 'proud' or in a 'political' manner.

We ask you to allow use of the rainbow flag during the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) without restrictions.

We think the policy in its present form makes an unjustified distinction between the showing of official national flags (allowed) and the rainbow flag (only allowed if not used in a 'political' manner). We think this is an unwarranted distinction between the showing of national identity and sexual identity.

We understand from your offices that the document that was published today is the draft policy. We sincerely hope that in the final version of the policy you will allow use of the rainbow flag without restrictions.

We hope the Eurovision Song Contest will remain a festival of diversity and trust in your wise judgment.

Respectfully yours,



Tanja Ineke

President

*COC Nederland is the Dutch organization for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT)