



FSE Newsletter

October/November 2010

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Screenwriters unite !

Quote of the month

« Scriptwriters' associations and trade unions work for the defense of the rights of our colleagues. Thanks to this meeting we have taken note of the needs and worries of the screenwriters and we will work, as we've been doing for years, for the improvement of our professional conditions.

Conclusions to the *1st Meeting of Spanish Scriptwriters*

SPAIN / Conclusions of FAGA and ALMA 1st Meeting of Spanish Scriptwriters

The 1st Meeting of Spanish Screenwriters, convened by FAGA and ALMA, took place in Valencia, Spain, from 1st to 3rd October 2010. The voices of the Spanish writers for the screen have been transcript in a written document, in the form of a [manifesto](#) with eleven priorities. Spanish screenwriters' associations and trade-unions want to be involved in any legislative reform affecting their profession, they defend the Spanish Copyright Law, they urge the collecting societies to effectively serve the interests of authors, they claim their share of rights for the audiovisual contents distributed on the net and on DVDs, etc.

- ▶ **Read the full conclusions** : <http://www.scenaristes.org/pdfs/spaindeclaration.pdf>
- ▶ **Blog of the event**: <http://encuentroguionistas.wordpress.com>

SPAIN / Ignasi Guardans's dismissal as ICAA director general

Ignasi Guardan was director general of the Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales since April 2009. His successor in the role will be Carlos Cuadros, until now head of the Spanish Film Academy.

► **More info:** <http://www.cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=152814>

SPAIN / Spanish Private Copying Levy in question

The IRIS newsletter, regularly reporting on legal developments related to the audiovisual industry in Europe, has published an article on a judgement rendered by the European Court of Justice in a [case](#) in a calling the current application of Spanish private copying levy into question.

► **More info:** <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/newsletter.php?year=2010&issue=10&id=12905>

Audiovisual European Policy

Cinema and European Identities

The Committee of Culture and Education of the European Parliament organised on 27th October a public hearing chaired by Ms Doris Pack on the theme of Cinema & European Identities.

The first session was dedicated to "Cinema, a cornerstone of European identities". Wim Wenders, director and President of the European Film Academy, presented the "role of cinema and film literacy in founding and nurturing a European soul" and Ms Anne Jäckel, author of "European Film Industries", proposed historical and institutional perspectives on European co-productions.

The second part of the meeting focused on distribution and promotion of European co-productions as key aspects for keeping European cinema alive. Roman Gutek, film distributor, President of Gutek Film, Poland, talked about breaking down language barriers for better circulation in film distribution. Giorgio Gosetti, General Delegate of the Giornate degli Autori (Venice Days), Italy, insisted on promoting European co-productions through film festivals and beyond.

Read the [interview](#) of Wim Wenders on the occasion of his visit to the European Parliament (you can also [watch](#) it) as well as a short [report](#) on the event.

► **Interview of Wim Wenders on the occasion :** http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/037-89974-298-10-44-906-20101025STO89950-2010-25-10-2010/default_en.htm

LUX Prize

The screenings of the 3 films in competition for the 2010 LUX Prize – the European Parliament Film Prize – have started on 26th October. These films "explore and question European shared values, look at the level of support for the project of building Europe and address cross-border concerns such as immigration, justice, solidarity, public freedoms and fundamental rights. Each film offers a glimpse into the lives of Europeans, their convictions and doubts and their quest for identity". The 2010 LUX Prize Award ceremony will take place in the Parliament's Chamber on 24th November in Strasbourg.

► **LUX newsletter :** <http://www.luxprize.eu/newsletter/newsletter3.html>

► **More about the LUX Prize :** <http://www.luxprize.eu/v1/>

Fight against Piracy

As we reported in our last newsletter, the European Parliament voted in favour of the so-called Gallo report on enforcement of intellectual property rights in the internal market. In parallel, the EU and a number of other members of the World Trade Organization began work on a new international agreement, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement ([ACTA](#)). The EU's objective with ACTA partners is to have a new plurilateral treaty improving global standards for the enforcement of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), to more effectively combat trade in counterfeit and pirated goods. Several rounds of negotiations haven taken place. The [consolidated text](#), released on 6th October, reflects the changes made during the 11th and final round of the negotiations held in Tokyo in September 2010.

ACTA however is a very modest step in the right direction. It will not change the body of EU law, which is considered to be already considerably in advance of any of the provisions of the proposed new treaty. According to the Commission the proposed treaty "creates a minimal level of harmonisation and transparency" on the internet.

The treaty now goes for acceptance by the various potential signatories. At EU level this means acceptance by the Commission College, then agreement and signature by the Council and finally to the Parliament for acceptance.

- ▶ **All you want to know about ACTA:** http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2010/october/tradoc_146792.pdf
- ▶ **Full consolidated text :** http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2010/october/tradoc_146699.pdf
- ▶ **More about ACTA on the EU official web page :** <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/trade-topics/intellectual-property/anti-counterfeiting/>

New Services and Protection of Broadcasters in Copyright Law

The European Audiovisual Observatory has just published the latest issue of the IRIS plus series, under the title "New Services and Protection of Broadcasters in Copyright Law". The publication covers the legal protection of broadcasters in the context of digital technology. What does it all mean for authors and holders of copyright-related rights? What conflicting interests must be taken into account? What different scenarios are there and what legal developments?

The publication costs 24,50 euros and can be ordered [here](#). You can also read the new issue of the IRIS newsletter [published online](#).

- ▶ **Iris Plus Contents :** http://www.obs.coe.int/oea_publ/iris/iris_plus/2010-5.html
- ▶ **IRIS newsletter :** <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/newsletter.php>

Harmonization of Copyright Laws discussed at European Innovation Summit

During the 2nd European Innovation Summit held in Brussels on 12 October, MEP Paul Rübig, Chairman of STOA (Science and Technology options Assessment) hosted in the European Parliament a [workshop](#) on "Copyright in the Single Market", moderated by Tilman Lüder, Head of Copyright Unit, DG Internal Market, European Commission. Participants discussed on the opportunities for further harmonization of EU copyright law as well as on the management of copyright and related rights and the way it can contribute to the development of the internal market.

- ▶ **Programme and report of the workshop :** http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/057-86239-281-10-41-909-20101008STO86186-2010-08-10-2010/default_en.htm
- ▶ **EU Press release on Online Piracy:** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/it/pressroom/content/20100920IPR82936/>

Net neutrality / Europe calls for an open and neutral Internet

The Commission has organised a Summit on "The open internet and net neutrality in Europe" on November 11th following up on the public [consultation](#) to which FSE responded. The Commission seems to have [concluded](#), as a result of the consultation, that there is wide spread support for the principle of an open internet, although there are complex technical questions which may have an impact on freedom of access to the internet, but that there is no demand for additional legislation at present.

► **Full report on the public consultation :**

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomms/doc/library/public_consult/net_neutrality/report.pdf

► **Neelie Kroes' conclusion of the summit:**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/643&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

"How to make VOD an opportunity for Europe's audiovisual production? "

In the FSE newsletter of July 2010 we talked about the KEA study on Multi-Territory Licensing, to which FSE contributed. In a [communiqué](#) issued on 20th October, KEA announced the publication of the [final report](#), which sets out recommendations to ensure the presence of European films' on new digital distribution platforms. A [summary](#) of the study is also available.

The study presents interesting arguments about the potential of the development of the online market for audio visual content, based very strongly on a realistic understanding of the workings of the European audiovisual marketplace, with some useful policy recommendations. Noteworthy are the reference to the EBU proposal that the Cable and Satellite directive may have usable principles for the online market and a reference to the Collecting societies proposition that there should be an unwaivable right to equitable remuneration for the "making available" right.

► **Communiqué :** <http://www.keanet.eu/docs/communique%20mtl%20-%20en.pdf>

► **Full report :** http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/docs/library/studies/multiterr/final_rep_en.pdf

► **Summary :** http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/docs/library/studies/multiterr/exec_sum_en.pdf

FSE to take part in EU Public Hearing on VOD

Besides, in the framework of the preparation of a Green Paper entitled "Audiovisual Production in the EU : Opportunities and Challenges", DG Internal Market is organising a public hearing on 13 December 2010 in Brussels. The aim of the hearing is to seek the views of interested parties on the opportunities and challenges of the online distribution of audiovisual works, in particular the emergence of new on-demand services. FSE has been invited to speak in the first panel on video on demand (VOD). This panel will examine the status of the emerging VOD services and reflect on how best to foster a consumer friendly business model whilst stimulating creativity and investment in the European audio-visual sector. FSE will consult its members in order to prepare this 10 min intervention.

WIPO / on Copyright Issues

The World Intellectual Property Organization hosted a meeting on "Facilitating Access to Culture in the Digital Age / Emerging Copyright Licensing Modalities" in Geneva on 4-5 November. Speakers from government, business and civil society explored different approaches to licensing creative content in the rapidly evolving on-line marketplace and in view of the proliferation of new forms of on-line distribution.

► **More info :** http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2010/wipo_cr_lic_ge_10/index.html

Besides, in a press release of November 12, WIPO announced that its "top copyright negotiating body this week continued discussions on limitations and exceptions to copyright law, as well as updating the rights

of broadcasting organizations and the rights of performers in their audiovisual performances. The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), meeting from November 8-12, 2010, took stock of the status of discussions in each of these three key areas and agreed on a road map for future negotiations”.

► **Full press release:** http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2010/article_0040.html

Reminder / Media Consultation

FSE will contact its members early November in order to collect comments for the public consultation conducted by the European Commission (Directorate General for Education and Culture) on a future EU programme for support of the European audiovisual sector after 2013. FSE will draft a common contribution reflecting the concerns of European screenwriters. The detailed questionnaire of the public consultation is now available [online](#).

► **More :** <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=futureumedia>

Audiovisual Industry

Creativity in Video games

Ray Maguire, chairman of BAFTA’s Video Games Committee, said, “The rise in popularity and sophistication of social media gaming has been meteoric. It is only right to recognise the hard work, fantastic creativity and great success being demonstrated in this new area of the industry. As a result, BAFTA is very proud to announce the new category of Social Network Game as part of the upcoming Awards.”

► **More :** <http://www.cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=153030>

Media and Public services

The Council of Global Unions organized a conference in Geneva on 12-14 October 2010 on “Quality of Public Services – Action Now !”. One workshop, moderated by Aidan White, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), was more focused on culture, media and journalism. “Cultural services including media, live performance and libraries are put under economic pressure. The growth of casual and forced freelance workers in this sector means that unions have to develop new efforts to protect workers of the industry and to empower professionals to shape their own futures”.

At the end of the conference, participants approved the Geneva Quality Public Services Charter, a document that should count in the future union agreements in the public sector throughout the world.

► **Programme and speakers :**

<http://www.qpsconference.org/sites/default/files/EN%202010%20QPS%20Conference%20Draft%20Program%20Updated%207%20Oct%202010.pdf>

► **Geneva Quality Public Services Charter :** http://www.qpsconference.org/sites/default/files/QPS_EN_Charter_4_Sept.pdf

Prix Genève-Europe 2010 for Best Fiction

Jaap van Heusden has been awarded the 2010 Prix Genève-Europe for the best TV fiction script written by a newcomer and produced or commissioned by a national broadcaster. The fiction comedy *Win Win*

was submitted by Dutch public broadcaster NTR and produced by IJswater Films in Amsterdam. Jaap van Heusden is also a recipient of the Writing Bursary of the European Alliance for Television and Culture (EATC) (2008).

► **More about the Prix Genève-Europe:** http://www.ebu.ch/en/union/news/2009/tcm_6-69011.php

Cinema industry in Africa

Cineuropa's website includes a section where you can find in-depth analysis areas on common interest subjects for audiovisual professionals : co-productions, funding, marketing case studies, economic trends, market analysis and much more... Cineuropa has recently updated its industry report on Africa : articles, interviews, news, analysis focusing on the audiovisual sector.

► **More info:** <http://www.cineuropa.org/dossier.aspx?lang=en&treelD=2090&documentID=137325>

Film Festivals in Europe

World Screenwriter Film Festival List of Excellence

FSE and IAWG are pursuing the preparation of the World Screenwriter Film Festival List of Excellence 2011 by sending a letter and a questionnaire to film festivals in Europe and in the world. The letter has been signed by Guy Hibbert (WGGB), Olivier Lorelle (UGS), James Schamus (WGA-E), Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson (FLH), and Howard Rodman (WGA W). The purpose of this action is to survey the profile of writers at international film festivals. Let's mention that the Screenwriters' guild of Israel has brought its support by translating letter and questionnaire in Hebrew.

Film festivals (a selection)

It's over... until it returns in 2011!

- Vienna International Film Festival (21 October – 3 November 2010) - <http://www.viennale.at/en/viennale>
- New London Screenwriters' Festival (29 - 31 October 2010) - <http://www.londonscreenwritersfestival.com>
- The 4th Estoril Film Festival, Portugal (5-14 November 2010) - <http://www.estoril-filmfestival.com/en>

Coming soon...

- Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden (17 – 28 November 2010) - <http://www.stockholmfilmfestival.se/en/>
- Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece (3 - 12 December 2010) - <http://www.filmfestival.gr/>

FSE monthly newsletter

If your organization would like to have news published in the December issue of the FSE monthly newsletter, or if you have suggestions to improve it, please contact us at the latest on 10th December.

www.scenaristes.org

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