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PRESS RELEASE

First ever World Conference of Screenwriters to take place in Athens

The twenty-eight member guilds from twenty-two countries of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE) and the eight member guilds of the International Affiliation of Writers' Guilds (IAWG) – among them the Writers Guilds of America East and West, the Australian Writers Guild, the New Zealand Writers Guild, SARTEC and WGC of Canada - with colleagues from Latin America, Israel and Japan will meet in Athens on November 6th and 7th 2009 to debate and plan a common response to global developments in film and television production and distribution.

Some two hundred writers will gather to consider the growing impact of the digital revolution on production, distribution and the behaviour of the multi-national conglomerates and to consider what a common response from writers and their representatives might be.

Among those already committed to be present will be **Mateo Gil** (Oscar for “Mar Adentro” and several awards for “Abro los ojos”, “Vanilla Sky”, “Agora”), **Peter Hedges** (“Gilbert Grape”, “Pieces of April”, “About a Boy”), **Guillaume Laurant** (several awards for “Amélie” and “A Very Long Engagement”), **Milcho Manchevski** (Golden Lion for “Before the Rain” and several awards for “Dust” and “Shadows”), **Sergio Sanchez** (Goya for Best Original Screenplay for “The Orphanage”), **Stefano Rulli** (several awards for “La Meglio Gioventu”, “Mio fratello e figlio unico” a.o.), **Guy Hibbert** (Sundance Screenwriting Award 2009 for “Five Minutes of Heaven”), **Razvan Radulescu** (several awards for “The Paper Will Be Blue” and “The Death of Mr. Lazarescu”), **Mark O’ Halloran** (several awards for “Adam and Paul” and “Garage”), **Srdjan Koljevic** (several awards for “The Trap” and “Red Colored Grey Truck”).

Countries represented include Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America.

Delegates will discuss a range of issues relating to the changes in the production and distribution of film and television programmes worldwide as a result of the digital revolution and the changing strategies of the multinational conglomerates who dominate the industry.

The organisation of the conference is supported by the Ministry of Tourism - Greek National Tourism Organisation, the Greek Film Centre (Hellenic Film Commission), with the collaboration of the Institute for the Audiovisual Media, and sponsored by VG Wort, Germany.

The draft agenda for the conference is available on <http://wcos.wordpress.com>.

Fédération des Scénaristes d'Europe // Federation of Screenwriters in Europe

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