

Newsletter # 18 - October 2009

FERA represents film and TV directors as the primary creators of audiovisual works. The director, as the creative decision-maker in a collaborative artistic process, has the final responsibility for the aesthetic cohesion and artistic integrity of the work. FERA defends the art and craft, and the creative and economic rights of the director, as essential to the diversity of European audiovisual culture.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS & POLICIES

Lisbon Treaty

Ireland votes YES to Lisbon

On 2 October the Irish people voted on the Lisbon Treaty with an overwhelming 67.1% in favour and 32.9% voting against. The turnout was 59% against 53% at last year's referendum. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso thanked the Irish people for the positive result stating that it represented "a sign of confidence in the European Union".

Czech Republic is the only country that has not yet ratified the treaty; its President Vaclav Klaus' signature is in fact needed to complete the ratification process. If ratified, the EU treaty will increase the European Parliament participation in the legislative process and will create two important institutional figures: the High Representative of Foreign Affairs and the President of the European Council.

Press Articles:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/resounding-irish-eu-lisbon-treaty/article-186051?Ref=RSS>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5920SM20091003>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1005/1224255888440.html>

Statement of Jose Manuel Barroso:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/Irish_referendum.pdf

Poland ratifies EU Treaty as Czech Republic puts new obstacles in way of Lisbon

On 10 October Polish President Lech Kaczynski signed the EU Treaty in Warsaw subsequent to the Polish Parliament ratification 557 days earlier. The ceremony was attended by Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Swedish EU President Frederik Reinfeldt and Polish Premier Donald Tusk.

Conversely Czech President Vaclav Klaus raised new claims over the treaty, asking to add footnotes concerning the charter of fundamental rights. Mr Klaus stated that the treaty may give good reason for property claims by Germans expelled from Czechoslovakia after World War II and he asked for a strong and binding guarantee on the property rights before he signs the document. Meanwhile the Czech Court confirmed that it would examine whether the treaty is compatible with the Czech constitution and will rule on 3 November, after the EU Summit in Brussels which should have as focal point the new EU Executive appointment.

Press Articles:

<http://euobserver.com/18/28809#>

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/czech-president-wants-footnote-added-eu-treaty/article-186235?Ref=RSS>

<http://euobserver.com/9/28819#>

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/klaus-links-eu-treaty-signature-wwii-claims/article-186270>

<http://euobserver.com/9/28892>

🇨🇪 **President** István SZABÓ (Hungary)

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Tony Blair in bid for EU president job

According to the press, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would be the most likely candidate for the position of President of the European Council, one of the two high institutional figures created by the Lisbon Treaty. Tony Blair would have the support of French Premier Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel; however so far only Irish prime Minister Brian Cowen formally expressed his support to Mr Blair. The former British leader's candidature may in fact create new problems with the British Conservative party very likely to come to power in the next UK elections. Jean Claude Juncker, Luxembourg Prime Minister and head of the Eurogroup – the 16 EU states which use the Euro – is also said to be against Mr Blair's candidature, claiming that the British politician did little to bring the UK closer to Europe on issues such as the single currency. Meanwhile Dutch Premier Jan Peter Balkenende's nomination to the EU President post was withdrawn by Dutch European Minister Frans Timmermans, whilst French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner appeared to be interested in the EU Foreign Minister job.

Press Articles:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/blair-line-eu-president-uk-media/article-186041>

<http://euobserver.com/?aid=28776#>

European Commission

European Commission plans tax on film distributors

On October 16 the European Commission opened a public consultation on digital cinema and the opportunities and challenges of the “digital revolution” in the EU film sector. This consultation, directed at professionals from the EU audiovisual industry such as film exhibitors, distributors, national film agencies, and public and private film organisations aims at analysing the impact on the film sector and in particular Europe's 30.000 cinema screens.

According to the figures provided by the EC, the market for film distribution in Europe is very concentrated (with the top 10 companies controlling over 80% of the market share in many EU countries) in contrast with a fragmented exhibitors' market (10% of European cinemas are multiplexes and 31% are single-screen). In order to protect single-screen cinemas, which are the most likely to show independent works, the Commission is ready to authorise state aid funding, but it is also considering to develop the US business model Virtual Print Fee (VPF), according to which distributors would pay part of the infrastructure investment of exhibitors.

After the consultation, which will be closed in December, the Commission will propose a way forward for the digital conversion from 2010.

Press Article:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/infosociety/brussels-plans-tax-film-distributors/article-186487>

Europa Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1534&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Commission Document:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/overview/consultations/docs/intro_consultation_digi_cinema_en.pdf

Commission ends legal action against Italy and Estonia on EU advertising rules

On 8 October the European Commission decided to close the legal actions against Italy and Estonia as both countries have adjusted their national legislation and now fully comply with EU TV advertising rules. According to the Commission, Italian broadcasters did not count 3 minute teleshopping messages in the advertising limits and therefore confused the viewers; while Estonian TV channels were regularly breaking the EU limit of 12 minutes of advertising per hour.

Viviane Reding, Commissioner for Information Society and Media, has welcomed the steps taken by the two countries to comply with European advertising rules, underlining the collaboration between national authorities and the European Commission as a successful factor in achieving these results.

Europe Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1492&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EC launches consultation on a Digital Single Market for Creative Content Online

On 22 October the Directorates Information Society and Media and Internal Market has presented a reflection paper on the challenges and opportunities of the Digital Single Market for creative contents online and launched a public consultation on the creation of a fair market for online distribution of contents such as books, films, music and video games. The paper emphasises the importance of copyright as a basis for creativity in European cultural heritage and highlights three legislative areas of actions: 1) Assuring that creators and right holders' creativity is rewarded; 2) Assuring the access to contents to users through fair and clear price and through legal means; and 3) Promoting new business models for online distribution in Europe.

The public consultation invites stakeholders such as creators, right holders, consumers and commercial users to participate in a broad debate. Comments can be sent by 5 January 2010.

Europa Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1563&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=nl>

Public Consultation Link:

http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/other_actions/content_online/index_en.htm

Telecoms Package

European Parliament and Council to open formal conciliation proceedings

According to the new proposal by the European Parliament, users suspected of infringing copyright laws could see their internet connections cut or face other administrative measures without a court judgment. In a major U-turn, the EP and Member States announced formal talks along with the European Commission over the telecoms package in the beginning of November. The new proposed text, which would replace Amendment 138, affirms that "any measures [against lawbreakers] may only be adopted as a result of a prior, fair and impartial procedure" and it removes the idea of obtaining a "prior ruling by the judicial authorities" before taking any actions against infringers (as was stated in Amendment 138).

Parliament, Council and Commission delegates must agree on a joint text by 30 December. Then the Council and the Parliament will have six to eight weeks to approve the final agreement without amendments.

Press Articles:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/infosociety/parliament-bows-pressure-telecoms-package/article-186674>

<http://euobserver.com/9/28885#>

European Parliament Press Release:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/058-62732-292-10-43-909-20091019IPR62731-19-10-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

MEDIA Programme

Swiss Parliament gives green light to MEDIA

The Swiss Parliament has ratified the agreement with the EU for the country's membership of the MEDIA Programme until 2013, after having softened its highly restrictive legislation on alcohol advertising on TV. The Parliament had already allocated €44m and has finally agreed upon the so-called country of origin principle which concerns the free reception and broadcast of TV programmes, with their related advertisements.

Press Article:

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=113839>

Copyright

Communication of the Commission on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy

On 19 October the European Commission adopted a Communication on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy jointly drafted by Commissioners Charlie McCreevy (Internal Market) and Viviane Reding (Information Society). The Communication provides an overview of the outcome of the public consultation

and announces a series of preparatory actions on a new intellectual property strategy for the next Commission. The document includes important cultural and legal aspects such as 1) the mass-scale digitisation and electronic dissemination of books; 2) orphan works; 3) teaching and research; 4) access to books and documents for people with disability; and 5) user-created contents.

The Commission is committed to take appropriate follow-up actions in its future strategy in the field of intellectual property. The priorities will be related to disabled persons, mass-scale digitisation and orphan works.

Intellectual Property Watch Article:

<http://www.ip-watch.org/weblog/2009/10/21/european-commission-communication-on-copyright-online/>

Europa Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1544&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Link to the Communication:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5332

Council of Europe

Recommendation on national film policies and the diversity of cultural expressions

On 23 September the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a Recommendation on film policies and the diversity of cultural expressions. This document is a non-binding international legal instrument which encourages film policy bodies in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe to adapt their projects to current technological and cultural changes and to optimise the use of resources in order to increase circulation of works and audience.

Link to the Recommendation:

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec\(2009\)7&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=CM&BackColorInterne=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=Edb021&BackColorLogged=F5D383](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2009)7&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=CM&BackColorInterne=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=Edb021&BackColorLogged=F5D383)

Report on convergence, copyright and trans-frontier television

The European Audiovisual Observatory has presented the Report on convergence, copyright and television by Bernt Hugenholtz which provides an essential analysis of the Satellite and Cable Directive adopted in 1993. The SatCab Directive aims at enhancing trans-border broadcasting and cable retransmission of TV programmes within the European Union. However referring to the Satellite broadcasting, Hugenholtz affirms that the Directive's principle of creating a pan-European licensing of content goes against the market reality since broadcasters have limited interest in acquiring pan-European rights but rather they focus on national markets. Regarding the copyright issue for the Cable retransmission, the regime of mandatory collective rights management adopted by the Directive aims at ensuring that cable operators can acquire all rights necessary to allow cable retransmission of broadcast programmes "acting as a 'one-stop shop' for cable rights". This regime is convenient for broadcasters but raises several problems for authors who rely on collecting management societies for remuneration.

The Directive has only partially achieved its objectives with the question of multi-territory licensing being crucial. However, according to the author of the study, this issue will not be solved in the immediate future.

European Audiovisual Observatory Press Release:

<http://www.obs.coe.int/about/oea/pr/irisplus0809.html>

Full Report:

http://www.obs.coe.int/oea_publications/iris_plus/iplus8_2009.pdf.en

European Union External Relations

EU and South Korea sign free-trade agreement

On 15 October in Brussels, after two years of negotiations, European Trade Commissioner, Catherine Ashton, and South Korean Trade Minister Kim Jong-Hoon signed the most important free trade agreement between the EU and a third country. The agreement (FTA), estimated to generate €19bn in new trade for European exporters, will abolish almost all tariff and several non-tariff barriers between the two countries. In addition the pact will influence the cultural and audiovisual cooperation between the countries by encouraging co-production agreements and boosting the temporary residence of artists, actors and

technicians in the two countries. The pact now needs approval of the EU Member States and it is expected to come into force in the second half of 2010.

Press Article:

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=114235>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/16/business/global/16trade.html>

DG Trade Press Release:

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=449>

IN THE MEMBER STATES

Cultural and Audiovisual Policies

UK government plans new film centre

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has confirmed the allocation of £45m for a new national film centre in South Bank in London. With the total cost of £166m, the new centre is expected to be completed by 2015 and it will have five digital screens, with one large auditorium capable of hosting events such as the opening night of the London Film Festival. Investors include the London Mayor's office (£5m), the British Film Institute (BFI with £15m-£20m) and private investors.

Press Article:

<http://www.screendaily.com/news/finance/uk-ireland/uk-government-to-back-new-film-centre/5007000.article#>

Dutch Film Sector Institute is created

Ronald Plasterk, Dutch Minister for Education, Culture and Sport, has announced the creation of a national body which will gather together the Filmmuseum, Holland Film, Netherlands Institute for Film Education and the Filmbank. The Netherlands Film Sector Institute will be the promotional body of Dutch cinema at home and abroad and "it will make use of a world-renowned film collection, restoration and research expertise, and considerable experience in education, international promotion, and marketing".

Press Articles:

<http://www.screendaily.com/news/corporate/europe/dutch-film-body-merger-confirmed/5007087.article#>

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=114232>

Francophone Development Fund established

On the occasion of the 24th Namur FIFF (International Francophone Film Festival), different film centres from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Quebec have announced the creation of the Francophone Development Fund. The Fund aims at encouraging collaborations between French-speaking countries and it is directed to producers of projects involving at least one Canadian and one European partner. The support will finance five films during the first session with a maximum of €40,000 per project. The call for proposals will close on 1 December with the results to be announced at Berlin Film Festival 2010.

Press Article:

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=114025>

France announces €543.6m in public funding for 2010

French Minister of Culture, Frédéric Mitterrand, has announced €543.63m in public funding for film and audiovisual industries for 2010. The National Film and Animated Image Centre will be in charge of the budget which will be divided in automatic support to producers, distributors, exhibitors and video editors for a total of €348.28m and in selective support including pre-production development grants for a total of €199.35m. Priorities for 2010 include €10m funding to the shift to digital for cinemas and VOD development while €5.3m will be allocated for the fight against piracy as well as for the creation of the High Authority for the Distribution of Works and Protection of Rights on the Internet (HADOPI). Finally, the fund includes €2.5m support for regional film festivals.

Press Article:

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=113841>

Norwegian film budget up €6m

Trond Giske, outgoing Norwegian Minister of Culture, announced a €6m increase in the film budget for 2010. The budget, worth €75.3m, will finance mainly productions of audiovisual works with €44.3m and will support regional film centres with €5m.

The Government objectives gathered in the 2006 White Paper on Film are gradually being met; these include obtaining a domestic market share of 25%; international recognition at world festivals; more diversity in film; and making film culture accessible throughout Norway.

Press Article:

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=114024>

Czech Republic introduces 20% film incentive

The Czech government has approved an incentive plan for foreign productions shooting in Czech Republic which will refund 20% of their expenses. To qualify for the rebate, producers would not only have to shoot in the country, but also have local crews, script and local partners. The plan must be approved by the national Parliament and the European Commission (since the incentives are based on the EU formula already in use in Hungary, Germany and shortly in France) and will then be implemented in January.

Press Articles:

<http://www.screendaily.com/news/corporate/europe/czech-film-incentive-approved-by-local-government/5007163.article#>

<http://www.variety.com/article/VR1118010206.html?categoryid=13&cs=1>

Icelandic industry fears 34% film budget cut

Icelandic government has announced its intention to cut the 2010 film budget by €1.07m; from the current €3.16m to €2.09m. Baltasar Kormákur, producer and filmmaker, and Ari Kristinsson, filmmaker and head of the Icelandic Producers Association met with Iceland Minister of Culture Katrín Jakobsdóttir asking for a revision of the film budget. The Minister advised them to present their case before a National Budget Committee so to bring the issue to a second Parliamentary discussion in November.

Press Article:

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=114100>

Closer collaboration between UK and Moroccan filmmakers

UK and Morocco have announced a package of incentives which will encourage co-production projects between the two countries. According to the agreement, any British filmmaker who wants to work with a Moroccan producer will have access to a range of benefits including tax breaks, funding sources and practical support. The co-production treaty is expected to come into force in the first half of 2010, after the Moroccan Government has formally ratified it.

Press Article:

<http://cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=113975>

UKFC News:

<http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/16000>

Cinema, Audiovisual and Internet Trends

More than 700 on-demand audiovisual services available in Europe

The European Audiovisual Observatory and the Direction du développement des médias are publishing the new study 'Video on Demand and Catch-Up Television in Europe' which offers an overview of recent developments of VOD services as well as looking at the various business models in Europe and USA. The European Audiovisual Observatory has identified 696 VOD services from 366 different providers operational at the end of December 2008 with the UK leading with 145 services, followed by France (106) and Italy (93). More than half these services were delivered via internet, 30% on a DSL network (in the IPTV mode), 7% on cable and less than 3% by satellite.

European Audiovisual Observatory Press Release:

<http://www.obs.coe.int/about/oea/pr/vod2009.html>

BBC Trust rejects plan to link iPlayer to ITV and Channel 4

BBC Trust rejected the plan to link the BBC iPlayer website to ITV and Channel 4 programmes. According to Diane Coyle, member of the BBC Trust, the regulator was not convinced about the potential value to licence fee payers since the plan would have mixed programmes with advertising within the BBC advert-free shows. Nevertheless, Five's spokesman claimed to be "surprised and disappointed by the decision" since the plan would have "represented enormous value for viewers". This is the second time that regulators block a plan to link BBC, ITV and Channel 4 programmes online; the previous plan to create a single website was stopped by the Competition Commission.

Press Article:

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/media/article6882227.ece#

VOD site Voddler launched in Sweden

Voddler, the video-on-demand service (VOD) comparable to Hulu, has been launched in Sweden. The VOD offers to 500,000 Internet users films on streaming from USA majors such as Paramount and Disney. Older films are free while there will be a fee for the newer ones.

Voddler goal is to be launched in all Nordic countries by next summer.

Press Article:

<http://www.variety.com/article/VR1118010498.html?categoryid=1009&cs=1&cache=false>

Copyright

Spain launches new film commission to tackle piracy

Spanish government is planning to launch a new film commission which will deal with intellectual property rights by the end of the year. The commission will aim at rebuilding the relations between Spanish internet service providers (ISPs) and rights holders after the two parties did not reach a compromise on how to solve the problem of illegal P2P file sharing in the country. Spain Minister of Culture Angeles Gonzales Sinde is also working on creating a new film fund worth €83.5 which will prioritise scriptwriters and projects that have women in key roles. The fund has been passed on to the European Commission for approval.

Press Article:

<http://www.screendaily.com/news/digital/europe/spain-launches-new-film-commission-to-tackle-piracy/5007060.article#>

Internet cut-off for French downloaders to start next year

French Constitutional Council has approved without objection the 'Hadopi 2' legislation which creates the High Authority on Diffusion of Works of Art and the Protection of the Rights on the Internet (HADOPI) as the new body to fight internet piracy. According to the new draft, only judges will be able to handle the sentencing while the Hadopi agency will be in charge of the 'three-strike' scheme by sending warnings to frequent offenders before cutting off their internet connection. According to the new legislation, lawbreakers will continue to pay for their internet access, and users who are not directly engaged in piracy may have their connection cut off if someone else in the household is illegally downloading.

The members of the Hadopi agency will be nominated in November and the first warnings are expected to be sent out at the beginning of 2010. The first internet access suspensions are expected within another six months.

Press Article:

<http://euobserver.com/9/28876#>

Creative Coalition welcomes UK anti-piracy plan

British Business Secretary Peter Mandelson confirmed his plans to block repeated copyright lawbreakers from using the internet. The new strategy will be clarified in the Digital Economy Bill this November and will include a notification process that could lead to cutting internet access as a last option. The new plan will be introduced in April 2010 and monitored for 12 months; should the plan fail to achieve the 70% reduction in illegal file sharing by July 2011, internet suspensions will start.

The Creative Coalition Campaign welcomed the plan and the acknowledgement that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will have to work together - and share the cost - with rights holders on the implementation of the new scheme. However, TalkTalk, the second largest ISP in the UK, has threatened to launch legal

action against Lord Mandelson's plan to cut off internet connections to users, stating that it would represent an infringement on human rights.

According to the new scheme, infringers will be informed before their internet access may be suspended and will then have 20 working days to appeal to an independent body established by Ofcom. The suspension will not come into force until the appeal has been heard.

Press Articles:

<http://www.screendaily.com/news/corporate/uk-ireland/creative-coalition-welcomes-mandelsons-anti-piracy-plan/5007453.article>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/oct/28/mandelson-date-blocking-filesharers-connections>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/oct/29/talktalk-threatens-legal-action-mandelson>

OUTSIDE EUROPE

Australian ISP copyright case begins

The Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT) has accused the third largest Internet Service Provider in Australia iiNet of allowing over 94,000 illegal downloads of Hollywood films over 59 weeks and has brought the case before the Federal Court of Australia. If AFACT is successful in its claims, ISPs could become legally responsible for copyright infringements, and could be forced to suspend accounts of customers identified as infringing copyright. Both parties, AFACT and iiNet, have been preparing their arguments for 11 months and the hearings before the Court are expected to be concluded in early November.

Press Article:

http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/content_display/news/e3i03c5991d65201a60765f26ed811eab73#

Japanese courts ruled on two copyright cases

The Japanese courts of Osaka and Tokyo have ruled on two cases of intellectual property rights in the peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing and DVD areas. Osaka high court has found Isamu Kaneko, former Tokyo University researcher, not guilty of supporting violation of Japanese copyright law. The Court stated that Mr Kaneko did not intend to violate copyright law through the creation of a P2P software application called Winny nor profit from it. However, a Winny user who shared the Japanese-subtitled copy of the Hollywood film *Wanted* before its national release was sentenced to two years in prison.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Supreme Court ruled in the case against two DVD producers and their company accused of violating copyrights. The company re-produced DVD copies of 12 Akira Kurosawa films and 9 Charlie Chaplin films, all released before 1952 claiming that the copyrights for those films had expired under the old copyright law in effect until 1970, which provided protection for 33 years after the original release. However in 1971 the new copyright law extended copyright protection to 50 years after the first release. The court declared that the films re-produced by the company were under the older law and therefore no law infringement was committed.

Press Articles:

<http://www.screendaily.com/territories/asia-pacific/japanese-court-acquits-creator-of-winny-p2p-software/5006604.article#>

<http://www.variety.com/article/VR1118009817.html?categoryid=20&cs=1>

Russia plots legislation to increase international interest

A group of Russian deputies has presented an amendment to the definition of "national film" in order to encourage foreign partnership with their national film industry. According to the new proposed legislation, 50% of the people involved in the making of a film instead of 30% (as in the current legislation) can be from other countries. Another aspect of the legislation includes the introduction of a "single-ticket-system" according to which all box office results would go directly to the government rather than being transferred from distributors to the government which complained that the figures provided have been reduced in order to avoid tax.

Press Article:

<http://www.screendaily.com/news/production/europe/russia-plots-legislation-to-increase-international-interest/5006588.article#>

FERA Activities

European Cultural Forum in Brussels

On 29 and 30 of September Brussels hosted the European Cultural Forum which focused on different issues of interest to the cultural industry. During the two-day meeting, over 500 professionals from the cultural industries (including FERA) participated in workshops which centered around the three topics Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue; Culture as a catalyst for Creativity and Innovation; and Culture as vital element of External Relations. A speech by Wim Wenders, film director and president of European Film Academy, concluded the forum.

European Cultural Forum Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/glance/glance2368_en.htm

Wim Wenders Final Speech:

<http://ec.europa.eu/culture/glance/pdf/conclusions/WimWenders.pdf>

Enlarged Executive Committee in Dijon on 16 & 17 October

The FERA Enlarged Executive Committee met in Dijon on 16 and 17 October on occasion of the Dijon Film Forum organised by L'ARP (French Civil Society of Authors, Directors and Producers). During this meeting Elisabeth O. Sjaastad (who has been a FERA delegate from the Norwegian Filmmakers' Association for the past 5 years) was formally appointed acting CEO until the end of 2009.

Conference on Media concentration and Authors rights and contracts in Oslo

Elisabeth O. Sjaastad attended the Conference on Media concentration and Authors rights and contracts in Oslo on 20 October. International Authors Forum is an initiative from the authors meeting organised in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO). The discussions centred around the following topics: 1) the growing usage of unfair contracts for authors in all parts of the world; 2) the lack of opportunities for co-operation between authors groups both nationally and internationally; 3) the need for a global international organisational network representing authors. Key speakers were Professor Bernt Hugenholtz, Director of the Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam, well known for his reports and studies on authors' rights, and Professor Helge Rønning who has recently conducted a study on media concentration.

The statement *Authors of the world – Co-operate now!* was adopted with amendments, and will be circulated in the near future.

New FERA office telephone number and website

FERA Office has changed telephone number. From now on you can contact FERA at **0032 2 290 0808**. The revised FERA website will be launched soon under the same address www.ferainfo.org.

News from Members

ADA – Austrian Directors Association GAM

On 29 September ADA, the Austrian Directors Association, elected six Board Members during the Annual General Assembly. Paul Poet was elected the new Chairman of the Board and Werner Boote the Vice-Chairman. Other members include Kurt Mayer, Wilfried Reichel, Franz Leopold Schmelzer and Chris Krikellis. The General Assembly confirmed Kurt Mayer and Dagmar Streicher as FERA Delegates.

ADA Website:

<http://www.directors.at/content/en/>

AGENDA

“FERA Directors in Dialogue” at Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival

The next series of “FERA Directors in Dialogue” will take place during the Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival (6-15 November). CPH:DOX will host two “FERA Directors in Dialogue”, the first between the two German directors Romauld Karmakar and Benjamin Heisenberg and the second between French director Nicolas Philibert and Danish director Eva Mulvad.

Information available on CPH:DOX website:

<http://www.cphdox.dk/d/a2.lasso?tt=f&s=2009115&ser=1127&e=1>

<http://www.cphdox.dk/d/a2.lasso?tt=f&s=2009115&ser=1125&e=1>