



Press Release
Brussels, Tuesday 11th July 2017

European Copyright: Parliament committees vote for an unwaivable right to fair remuneration for audiovisual authors

Today, the European Parliament Industry and Culture committees voted in favour of an unwaivable right to fair remuneration for authors and performers for the making available of their works. Supported by the European audiovisual authors' community, such a remuneration right would ensure that screenwriters and directors receive royalties when their works are exploited on on-demand services, wherever in Europe, thanks to its collective mechanism.

The ITRE committee opinion, drafted by Polish ECR MEP Zdislaw Krasnodebski, was adopted including such an unwaivable right to fair remuneration introduced by S&D MEPs led by British MEP Theresa Griffin with the support from across the political spectrum. Drafted by French EPP MEP Marc Joulaud, the Culture committee adopted a compromise amendment with a similar positive provision for authors and performers based on amendments introduced by S&D, EPP and Greens but undermined by a possible derogation for original agreements which would raise the costs and sap the functioning of any collective agreement. Taking into account the weak individual bargaining power of audiovisual authors, such a derogation is not justified and will need to be reexamined.

The SAA encourages the European Council and the lead committee in the European Parliament, the Legal Affairs Committee, to support and adopt ITRE's unwaivable right to remuneration.

The Legal Affairs committee, will discuss the Copyright Directive tomorrow and vote after the summer. The Council Intellectual Property Working Party held a meeting on this issue yesterday.

Quotes:

Cécile Despringre, SAA Executive Director said "*The Culture and Industry opinions sends a clear and powerful message to the European Parliament's lead committee and the Council. They have recognized that Europe's screenwriters and directors must be financially rewarded when their works are successful online and have adopted the appropriate provisions to make sure that happens.*"

Pauline Durand-Vialle, FERA Chief Executive added "*The unwaivable right to fair remuneration received support from across the political spectrum this morning. It's great to see the European Parliament stepping up in support of the audiovisual creative community.*"

David Kavanagh, FSE Executive Officer said "*This Directive is a unique opportunity to bring fairness to audiovisual authors by allowing them to share in the economic success of their works online: let's hope this step forward in the EU Parliament paves the way for positive discussions in the Council.*"

FERA - Founded in 1980, the Federation of European Film Directors contains 39 directors' associations from 29 countries. It speaks for approximately 20,000 European screen directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests both in Brussels and in the Member States. www.filmdirectors.eu @Film_directors

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FSE - The Federation of Screenwriters Europe is a network of national and regional associations, guilds and unions of writers for the screen in Europe, created in June 2001. It comprises 25 members from 20 countries, representing more than 7,000 writers in Europe. www.scenaristes.com @ScreenwritersEU

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SAA - Founded in 2010, the Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA) is the association of European collective management organisations representing audiovisual authors. Its 31 members in 23 countries manage rights for over 120,000 film, television and multimedia European screenwriters and directors. www.saa-authors.eu @saabrussels

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