

ECSA Board concludes with strong sense on issues to tackle

The Board, comprising three representatives of each committee – art & classical music (ecf), film & audiovisual music (fface) and popular music (apcoe) met on 3 May at the ECSA Secretariat in order to discuss issues related to ECSA administration and EU policy affairs. Certainly high on the agenda was the directive on collective rights management, currently under debate in the European Parliament and Council of Member States. ECSA Board Members expressed concerns on the over-simplified view of some MEPs as to how collective rights management works in practice and called upon the EP to respect the importance for music writers to exclusively assign their rights to collective societies. Any departure from this system would have detrimental consequences and entail:

- **fragmentation of repertoires** and therefore a burdensome licensing marathon (which clearly conflicts with the aim of the directive)
- **Increased domination** of the Anglo/US repertoire and concomitant diminution of cultural diversity in music
- **Rights grab** by music companies, who will seek to acquire the performing right and withdraw it from CMOs
- **Loss of control** for songwriters and composers as to how their works are administered

As for administrative issues, Secretary General Patrick Ager briefed Board Members on the implications of the EU cultural grant, which ECSA has been selected for, and introduced the board with new ECSA Program Officer Audrey De Wael and Research Assistant Antoine Van Lierde.

ECSA's additional work program includes presence of European composers at the Cannes Film Festival, organizing a new edition of ECCO (European Contemporary Composers Orchestra) and ensuring the presence of ECSA representatives at the CISAC World Creators Summit, which is scheduled for 4&5 June in Washington.

Finally, ECSA also launched new activities such as the *Youth Network*, which foster the collaboration of composers with adolescents and students, as well as the Composers in Education Database and the Composers Factory. All those projects will be further developed by Program Officer Audrey De Wael, who will officially join ECSA administration in June.

ECSA welcomes the Report of UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed – “The right to freedom of artistic expression and creativity”

The report stresses that the system of non-profit collective rights management societies, having authors and artists well represented on their boards, “should be promoted and protected”.

ECSA is also pleased that the Special Rapporteur notes the problem of coercive contracts, in which creators sign away their rights to their creation in order to gain a commission for creating a work. This practice – demonstrating the necessity of the exclusive assignment to collective society - is frequently done by public and private funded broadcasters and consequently entails that creators lose control over their creation, which can be used in contradiction to their own vision.



In sum, the report addresses the multi-faceted ways in which the right to freedom of artistic expression and creativity may be curtailed. It reflects upon the growing worldwide concern that artistic voices have been or are being silenced by various means and in different ways. The Special Rapporteur addresses laws and regulations restricting artistic freedoms, as well as economic and financial issues significantly impacting on such freedoms.

For further information please click [here](#).

The Global Repertoire Database (GRD) found its homes.



London and Berlin have been selected to be the official locations for the GRD. This choice was based on the strength of legal framework, availability of staff and accessibility for global industry participants. The two cities will thus be the cradles of the first authoritative database of music works and as Alfons Karabuda described it “a completely new system of rights management that will benefit creators globally”. For further information go to [GRD](#).

ECSA autumn meeting

The dates have now been confirmed for the autumn meeting of ECSA delegates in Zagreb. The Committees will meet in the morning and the General Assembly will take place in the afternoon, both on 4th October 2013. More detailed information to follow.