

Activity Report 2010

Executive Chairman

February 3rd 2011

ECSA members

Executive Summary:

This report highlights activities and meetings of ECSA officials with national and European politicians, as well as interventions at EU organized conferences in 2010.

The outline is structured among interventions and activities in five categories:

1. European Union
2. Association
3. Internal
4. Others
5. International Cooperation

1. European Union

EP Working Group on Copyright – April 14th

On April 14th ECSA Chairman Alfons Karabuda joined ECSA Spokesperson Patrick Rackow and ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager at the European Parliament Working Group on Copyright. The Working Group is a subsidiary body of the EP Committee on Legal Affairs and had a special session on collective rights management. Four experts had been invited: Mr. Desurmont spoke on behalf of GESAC, Mr. Heijio Ruijsenaars represented EBU and José Antonio Suarez Lozano spoke on behalf of EGEDA, a collecting society for the Spanish and Latin American audiovisual producers. Spokesperson Patrick Rackow addressed the working group on behalf of our alliance.

EC Public Hearing on Collective Rights Management – April 23rd

On April 23rd, the European Commission held a Public Hearing on the Governance of Collective Rights Management in the EU, entitled “The relationship between collective rights managers and their members”. On the first panel ECSA Spokesperson Patrick Rackow made a presentation, presenting the authors’ point of view on what music writers need from the European Commission and why authors’ societies and collectives are pivotal to the creators.

ECSA Office receives visit by Member of Council of the EU – May 10th

Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister for Education, the Arts and Culture of the Republic of Austria visited ECSA’s Brussels Office on May 10th. Welcomed by ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager, Minister Schmied was guided through the venues of Flagey by Director General Hugo de Greef, as well as informed about the European House for Culture by Kathrin Deventer, EFA Secretary General. ECSA Spokesperson Patrick Rackow and Patrick Ager provided Minister Schmied with a comprehensive information folder on ECSA. The Austrian delegation also included Mr. Hanspeter Huber, Chief of staff of the Minister’s office and Mrs. Heidemarie Meissnitzer, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Austrian permanent mission in Brussels.

Commissioner Vassiliou holds informal talk with cultural stakeholders – April 27th

On the occasion of the adoption of the Green Paper on April 27th, Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou invited cultural stakeholders for a lunch-buffet and informal discussion. ECF Vice-President Helmut Erdmann, respectively ECSA delegate and Secretary General Patrick Ager participated at the lunch-buffet and were welcomed by the Commissioner. Both parties appreciated the opportunity to talk informally and it proved to be a good occasion to inform the Commissioner about ECSA.

The release of the green paper, which can be found on our website, was launched with a consultation period of three month. ECSA Presidium has been studying the paper.

Working Luncheon, EC, CISAC, CIAM and ECSA – May 31st

On May 31st a working luncheon took place in Brussels with representatives of the European Commission (Tilman Lueder), CISAC (Silvina Munich), CIAM (Bendik Hofseht) and ECSA (represented by Jörg Evers).

Cabinet of Commissioner Barnier welcomes ECSA delegates – June 1st

On June 1st, Deputy Head of Cabinet Kerstin Jorna welcomed ECSA's Co-Chairman Klaus Ager and Spokesperson Patrick Rackow for an exchange of views. The meeting took place in the EC Headquarters in Brussels and dealt with issues of concern for the European music writers. Cabinet member Didier Millerot and Secretary General Patrick Ager were also present.

Meeting with Cabinet of Commissioner Neelie Kroes – July 15th

On July 15th a meeting with Ms. Boix Alonso, Deputy Head of Cabinet of EC Vice-President Neelie Kroes, Commissioner for Digital agenda, took place in Brussels.

“The meeting was extremely constructive”, as pointed out by Alfons Karabuda when concluding. Both, Ms. Boix Alonso and Mr. Karabuda exchanged their views on collective rights management and pan-European licensing. It was agreed that the Cabinet of Commissioner Kroes and ECSA will keep in close contact. ECSA's Secretary General Patrick Ager and SKAP's Administrative Director Mårten Karlsson attended the meeting as well.

Meeting with Vice President of EU Commission – November 30th

Mr. Almunia, Commissioner for Competition, received on November 30th an ECSA delegation for an exchange of views on pending EU policies related to authors' rights. The meeting took place at the European Commission in Brussels and has been an excellent occasion for ECSA to discuss its viewpoints with the Commissioner. Among other issues, the delegation stressed the necessity for music creators to maintain the exclusive assignment to their collective societies, as well as the efforts of ECSA's Coercion Committee to collect evidences on coercive practices for the commissioning of film and media music. It was agreed that both ECSA and the Commission stay in contact. The ECSA delegation included Alfons Karabuda, Klaus Ager, Patrick Rackow, Bernard Grimaldi, John Groves and Patrick Ager.

2. Associational Level

Creators Conference – March 10th

How to provide widespread, affordable access to content for the public and to encourage a dynamic creative culture, while returning value back to creators? This question was discussed in depth at an international conference on March 10th. The conference was organized by SKAP and took place in Stockholm. We were proud to have international panels, which consisted of representatives from the whole music industry as well as inventors and consumers such as Peter Jenner, music manager and record producer and Bennett Lincoff, intellectual property law attorney, consultant and writer. ECSA Spokesperson Patrick Rackow represented the alliance on the panel, Mark Fishlock was leading the seminar as our moderator.

Next step: launch of the Creators Network (please see below on point 4.)

World Copyright Summit Advisory Board – March 26th

On March 26th, ECSA Chairman Alfons Karabuda joined the inaugural meeting of the World

Copyright Summit Advisory board, in Brussels. The World Copyright Summit is organized by CISAC and will take place in June 2011 in Brussels. The advisory board will have monthly meetings and ECSA will be from now on represented in the board. ECSA will strive to ensure that the writers' points of view are taken into account when planning this major event. All information sent out regarding the summit will from now on also contain ECSA's logo.

European Forum on Music – April 16th

On April 16th, at the Conference “Musical Diversity on: Looking Back... Looking Forward”, organized by the European Music Council, ECSA Spokesperson Patrick Rackow and Graham Dixon of BBC Radio 3, outlined the dichotomy that is faced when talking about cultural diversity in a digital environment.

European House for Culture Meeting – April 23rd

On April 23rd Secretary General Patrick Ager represented the alliance in a meeting of the European House for Culture (EHfC) in Brussels, Flagey. Mr. Ager welcomed the opportunity to highlight the importance of a living partnership between ECSA and EHfC and the added value for both associations participating in this partnership. EHfC representatives included among others Frans de Ruiter (EHfC President), Hugo De Greef (Director General of Flagey) and Kathrin Deventer (EFA Secretary General).

ECSA – GESAC Meeting – May 5th

Secretary General Patrick Ager was received by the GESAC team, headed by GESAC Secretary General Véronique Desbrosses, on May 5th. In a friendly and cooperative atmosphere, both organizations exchanged their views.

EU XXL Forum – May 8th

Frank Stahmer, ECF General Manager and ECSA Coercion Committee member was appointed as FFACE representative to this year's EU XXL Forum. Taking place in Vienna and Krems, Austria, the EU XXL Forum reflected, among other issues, the issue of authors' rights in film music. Mr. Stahmer ensured that the music writers' concerns were taken into account during the Forum and when drafting the EU XXL Resolution.

ArtMusFair, Warsaw – from September 22nd to 26th

The 3rd edition of ArtMusFair took place from September 22nd to 26th in Warsaw, Poland. Around 200 composers, songwriters and music stakeholders were offered a comprehensive programme including lectures, seminars and workshops. Alfons Karabuda, Chairman of ECSA, represented the alliance at a panel entitled “Authors' Rights: Between EU Directive and Cultural Flatrate”. The discussion focused on the new EC directive on collective rights management, as well as on issues such as Cultural Flatrates for music downloaded and streamed on the internet and smart phones. Additionally, ArtMusFair hosted also a meeting of IAMIC – the International Association of Music Information Centres and a General Assembly of the European Composers' Forum (ECF), which initiated ArtMusFair three years ago.

European House for Culture Meeting – November 21st

ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager took part in a meeting of the European House for Culture (EHfC) in Berlin. The meeting was a good occasion to highlight, once again, the crucial importance of a living partnership among members and partners. Three new partners have been welcomed in the Ehfc: the European Association of Artist Managers, the European Early Music Network and the European Cultural Forum. EHfC's representatives included, among others, Frans de Ruiter (EHfC President), Hugo De Greef (EHfC Treasurer) and Kathrin Deventer (EHfC Secretary).

3. Internal Meetings

ECSA Delegation Assembly in Bilbao – June 9th

On June 9th, representatives of European composers' societies met in Bilbao to address challenges facing the European music creators' community. ECSA's three pillars – the European Composers Forum (ECF), the Federation of Film and Audiovisual Composers in Europe (FFACE) and the Alliance of Popular Composer Organization in Europe (APCOE) - met as well and delegated their representatives to the ECSA Assembly, which took place at 4 pm. in the Teatro Campo. The main outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a "Resolution on the management of Authors' Rights", stressing basic principles in the administration of authors' rights. Further topics of discussion of the Assembly included the budgetary situation of the alliance, upcoming ECSA meetings and a report on the work of the Coercion Committee by its Chairman, Örjan Strandberg.

Executive Board Meeting in Paris – August 26th

At the Executive Board meeting, ECSA Chairman Alfons Karabuda, ECSA Co-Chairman Klaus Ager, ECSA spokesperson Patrick Rackow and ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager further discussed on the position paper to present to Cabinet Barnier, Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, as well as on the ECSA budget.

ECSA Autumn Session at ArtMusFair, Warsaw – September 23rd

ECSA held its autumn session during this year's ArtMusFair conference in Warsaw, Poland. The ECSA meeting, as well as the meeting of the three pillars APCOE, ECF and FFACE, took place on September 23rd. The major outcome was the endorsement of a position paper on the collective management of authors' rights, which followed to the Resolution adopted by the alliance in June in Bilbao. The position paper outlines pending problems with the licensing of music for online uses, proposes a solution advocated by ECSA and highlights some ideas on how this can be achieved. The position paper can be downloaded from the website. The meeting also included a briefing for ECSA delegates on the Global Repertoire Database and on the Pan European Portal, as well as on the budgetary situation of the alliance. ECSA's Coercion Committee also held a meeting.

4. Others

Meeting with MUSIMAGEN and SGAE, Spain – September 6th

On September 6th ECSA Chairman Alfons Karabuda and Secretary General Patrick Ager met

in Madrid with MUSIMAGEN and SGAE representatives. In a working Luncheon with Eduardo Bautista, Bernado Fuster, Luis Ivars, Pablo Hernandez, Ivan Garcia-Pelayo and Caco Senante. The agenda comprised ECSA's lobbying activities in Brussels and pending EU initiatives related to ARMS and authors' rights.

Launch of Creators Network – from September 22nd

On the occasion of ArtMusFair in Warsaw, the Creators Network has been launched. This is not an organization or an association, it is a tool for communication, cooperation and creativity, which includes creators, performers and other professionals within the creative industries. The members are individuals, as well as their professional organizations. The Creators Network is a result of the Creators Conference, which was initiated by the Swedish Society of Popular Music Composers (SKAP) in March 2010. The aim of the conference was to highlight important questions that the artistic community is facing today.

Meeting with SACEM Director Bernard Milliet – October 21st

ECSA's Executive Chairman Alfons Karabuda, had a meeting with SACEM Director Bernard Milliet on October 21st in Paris. In the heart of the conversation were the Pan-European-Portal, ECSA lobbying activities in Brussels and the upcoming EC directive on AMRS. Bernard Grimaldi (FFACE), Patrick Rackow (ECSA) and Patrick Ager (ECSA) participated in the meeting as well.

On the occasion of his presence in Brussels, ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager held a meeting with the Head of UNESCO's World Anti-Piracy Observatory unit, Ms. Petya Totcharova.

SoundTrack Cologne 7.0 – from November 23rd to 28th

Film music composers from all around Europe met in Cologne at the 7th edition of the Cologne Film Music Congress. Entitled "the Best of the Combination of Film and Music", the Congress was opened by interviews with the ECSA representatives Alfons Karabuda and Bernard Grimaldi, as well as by an in depth discussion with the Polish composer Jan A.P Kaczmarek, who received an Oscar for his music in the film "Finding Neverland". ECSA and FFACE also hosted a seminar on current music politics. The panel comprised John Groves (FFACE delegate), Rainer Fabich (FFACE delegate), Patrick Rackow (ECSA), Bernard Grimaldi (FFACE delegate) and Micki Meuser (mediamusic). The seminar was an excellent occasion to exchange views with young film music composers and to introduce them to ECSA, as their representative body at European level.

5. International Cooperation

Within a year, ECSA became member of two associations active in the field of advocacy and lobbying. Firstly, the alliance joined the International Music Council and secondly, ECSA became member of a new initiative entitled Creators' Voice.

ECSA maintains its' partnership with the European House for Culture and its' request to being granted observer status at the World Intellectual Property Organization will be subject of discussion at WIPO's upcoming General Assembly (autumn 2011).
