

Creators Conference 2013



The 2013 edition of ECSA's Creators Conference opened with a panel discussing freedom of speech and authors' rights. Entitled "Your Voice – Your Rights", the panelists Yekaterina Samutsevich (Pussy Riot), Alfons Karabuda (ECSA) and Ole Reitov (Freemuse) discussed key concerns of music writers, including freedom of expression and censorship in music. EESC Vice-President Anna-Maria Darmanin was absent due to sudden sickness.

Yekaterina Samutsevich remains the only member of the Pussy Riot group who's sentence was suspended in October 2012. Ms Samutsevich spoke very emotionally on the issue of false attribution and the constant violation of the groups moral rights, when others imitate their style and convey messages the Pussy Riots do not adhere too. The panel concluded that a stronger international protection of both, freedom of expression and moral rights is indispensable for the arts. Furthermore, UN Special Rapporteur for Cultural Rights, Mrs. Farida Shaheed, participated via video message and announced that the first ever UN report on artistic freedom of expression will be published soon. Both, Ole Reitov and Alfons Karabuda are part of the expert group assisting the Special Rapporteur in working out the report and are actively supporting the Special Rapporteur in her important work. The panel concluded with a common determination of all participants that everything must be done to ensure that all members of the Pussy Riots will have a chance to physically participate at the next years' Creators Conference.

ECSA adopts declaration strengthening the exclusive assignment of the performing right

In the morning of the conference ECSA published a declaration on collective management of author's rights and the necessity of the exclusive assignment of the performing right. The declaration was handed over to Marielle Gallo (EPP) and Françoise Castex (S&D) on a panel entitled Collective Societies & the Digital Shift, which also included composers Jana Andreevska and Wally Badarou, as well Simfy CEO Gerrit Schumann. A number of composers and songwriters raised concerns on the level of payment they receive from digital streaming



services and also the non-disclosure agreements that CMSs have to sign with those companies.

Fair Deals an illusion?

The Creators Conference shed light on the important issue of the right to fair remuneration and fair deals for creators. This problem was tackled in the panel with MEP Helga Trüpel, Jean Bergevin (EC), Eddie Schwartz (Songwriter Association of Canada) and UK composer and BASCA board member Chris Smith. The panelists agreed that in a world where huge commercial interests negotiate directly with one another on a global scale, creators must form global alliances to ensure we have a voice in the process, that we are fairly compensated, and that there is transparency.

Election Results

In the framework of the annual general Assembly, the ECSA members from all over Europe elected their representatives to the new ECSA board. The result is as follows:

President: Alfons Karabuda (Sweden), Vice-Presidents: Bernard Grimaldi (France) and Antun Tomislav Šaban (Croatia), Treasurer: John Groves (Germany), Board Members: Chris Smith (UK), Jean Marie-Moreau (France), Jörg Evers (Germany), Martin Q Larsson (Sweden), Kjartan Olafsson (Iceland)

Application

ECSA is proud to announce to have been selected for the 2013 DG EAC operating grant!