

ECSA holds Annual General Assembly in Brussels

The European Composer and Songwriter Alliance held its General Assembly and three committee meetings in Brussels on 13th and 14th February 2014.



ECSA delegates in Brussels (Photo credit: ECSA Office)

The Flagey Cultural Centre was chosen as a suitable location with its unique architecture, acoustic properties and many prominent cultural activities taking place there regularly.

ECSA's members exchanged views on topics of interest to composers and songwriters, and took stock of the progress of existing cultural projects. New ECSA Secretary General, Lucie Mattera, was also officially introduced.

Several issues were thoroughly discussed, amongst them: the public consultation on the EU copyright rules, the campaign *Creators for Europe*, the implementation of the "Collective Rights Management Directive", and the European Parliament's study on contractual arrangements. In addition, GRD representatives gave a presentation about the progress in the Global Repertoire Database. The Business Plan for 2014/2015 was also approved.

ECSA would like to thank again all participants for their attendance and active participation which made the annual meeting a valuable exercise.

Update on TIPP negotiations

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and US Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman, met last week in Washington D.C to discuss progress made after the first three rounds of EU-US trade discussions, and to talk about how to best move forward with the negotiations.

On the subject of 'exception culturelle', France entered the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talk securing cultural exception as a *precondition* to the agreement.



France's commitment to cultural exception was also confirmed by President Holland during his recent visit to the US.

Speaking following a "stocktaking" meeting the EU Trade Commissioner claimed that "more work is needed on all aspects of the negotiations."

The fourth round of negotiations for the TTIP will take place in Brussels from 10th - 14th of March. ECSA is actively monitoring any developments relating to the agreement, particularly to IPR.

Creators for Europe – only 9 days left!

In January 2014, ECSA launched a campaign entitled *Creators for Europe* as an initiative highlighting the value of culture and copyright in Europe. The initial deadline was extended to 5th of March.

As per 21st of February, 18 535 signatures have been collected and 86 367 people visited the website.

So far over 700 questionnaires were downloaded from the platform.

ECSA kindly reminds everyone that the petition can be signed only for 9 remaining days and strongly encourages spreading the information among all interested stakeholders to safeguard the rights of creators:

www.creatorsforeurope.eu