

Creators for Europe: conclusion of the campaign

In December 2013, The European Commission launched a public consultation on the review of the 2001 Copyright Directive that was officially closed on 5th March 2014. The objective of the consultation was to gather input from stakeholders, including creators. ECSA believed that the creative community should have a say in the review. ECSA therefore launched in January 2014 the “*Creators for Europe*” campaign to highlight the value of culture in Europe and to ensure that the voice of composers and songwriters (and all creators) is heard by EU institutions and national policy-makers.



The campaign has been a major success for authors and creators in Europe. As of 17 March 2014, over 28 000 signatures were collected in support of European culture. In addition, over 1000 questionnaires were downloaded. 22 countries participated in the survey, the majority of signatures coming from France (over 8000), Germany (over 3500), Denmark (2500) and Switzerland (2200). Looking at a cross section of the survey, the majority of signatures came from the following sectors: music (over 16000 signatures), art (over 3000), books (around 2000), theatre (over 1000) and cinema (around 1000).

ECSA would like to warmly thank all members for their involvement and support for the dissemination at national level of the “*Creators for Europe*” initiative. Members’ support was critical in providing the campaign with the publicity it needed to gather a meaningful number of signatures from all over Europe.

The Commission is expected to issue a white paper in June following its assessment of answers submitted to the consultation. ECSA is actively monitoring developments relating to the review of the 2001 copyright Directive and will keep ECSA members informed about the progress made on this front.

Private Copying Levies: update

On 27 February 2014 the European Parliament adopted Ms. Castex’s report on Private Copying Levies (PCL). While calling for a modernization of the system, the report is supportive of PCL, noting that it is a “virtuous system that balances the exception for



copying for private use with the right to fair remuneration for rightholders, and that it is worth preserving”. In addition, the report stresses that “levies should be payable by manufacturers and importers”. ECSA will remain engaged on PCL issues at national level as well as in the context of the review of the 2001 copyright Directive.

Open letter from the National Union of Ukrainian Composers

ECSA received early March an open letter from the National Union of Ukrainian composers, representing contemporary classical music in Ukraine. The letter calls on composers associations and decision-makers around the world to be alert to the developments in Ukraine. ECSA issued a public statement on its website expressing solidarity with composers in Ukraine.

Media piracy issues: hearing of composer in US Congress

On March 13 a congressional hearing on copyright reform took place in the American House Judiciary Committee. The Hearing gave stakeholders an opportunity to make their case for a reform of the current system, created by the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Grammy-winning composer Maria Schneider testified to an existing environment where “content creators such as herself are left to police the Internet abyss for websites that post her music without permission.”