News from Brussels - edition 40 - June 2014

IMPORTANT! The ECSA Autumn Meeting dates have been rescheduled to 29-30 September 2014, the meetings will take place as planned in Skopje, Macedonia. We would like to apologize for any inconveniences this change might cause.

ECSA President stresses the importance of rights for individual creators
6 June 2014, Athens

Alfons Karabuda was invited to present the point of view of authors at the Greek Presidency Conference "Digital Agenda for Europe: Current Regulations and Challenges for the Future" on 6 June 2014 in Athens, Greece.

It was a good opportunity to highlight key issues faced by music authors as a result of the digital shift. Mr Karabuda explained that over 300 online service providers are active in the EU today with a digitized catalogue of 13 million tracks. These service providers were able to emerge in a European context where authors’ rights are taken seriously. He further clarified that on the other hand, authors have not yet reached their shared goal of seeing a significant re-aggregation of repertoire, and therefore are probably not making the best of the opportunities offered by the online environment.

He then called on policy-makers to be vigilant regarding the conditions faced by music writers in the future. "If you care about those at the heart of the creative industry, let us make sure we have the right framework in place, a framework that will make authors thrive, the value chain thrive, and the European economy thrive".

NOPA General Assembly, 10 June 2014, Oslo

ECSA Secretary General was invited to the General Assembly of NOPA the Norwegian Composer Union. Ms Mattera made a presentation about ECSA and its activities during the meeting. This was a good opportunity for our Norwegian Colleagues to meet, ask questions and exchange views with the Secretary General.
"There are numerous composers worldwide, who continue mostly out of pure, creative idealism. Only a select few have the privilege and enjoyment of their music being performed by others, let alone, achieve recognition. This is not necessarily due to differences in talents or abilities, but often the fact that composers are unable to market themselves."

The Diabelli contest offers a competition, which provides a general public, for composers from all walks of life. For more information please see http://www.diabelli-contest.com/en.

ECSA board and Secretary General Lucie Mattera were invited to attend the Centenary Gala for PRS for Music on 5 June 2014 in London. The Celebration was quite special, 100 years of Performing Rights Society is a milestone in the collective rights management for authors in the United Kingdom. Throughout the whole year PRS for Music is organising events to mark and celebrate this special occasion.

For more information please visit PRS for Music.

EP election

The European Parliamentary election results will be made official on 1 July 2014 when the new Members of the Parliament will commence their five year term. During the first Strasbourg session we will find out who will chair over the respective parliamentary committees.

ECSA has involved its members in advising and identifying appropriate MEPs to be contacted in order to start building our relationship with the newly elected policy makers.
Results of the petition “say yes to culture in Europe with creators, and no to the dismantling of their rights”

Over 29,000 creators, artists, and citizens from 106 countries have signed the petition, which calls on Europe to make culture a priority and to give culture its true place at the heart of the European economy. The conclusions of the Creators for Europe initiative have been handed to the European Commission representatives by ECSA.

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