

Busy days for ECSA:

- Brussels, Meeting with GESAC (5th of May)
- Copenhagen, ECF Composers Factory (7th of May)
- Vienna, EU XXL Forum (7th - 9th of May)
- Hamburg, ECSA Coercion Committee (8th of May)
- Brussels, Visit by Austrian Culture Minister (10th of May)

Austrian Government Member visits ECSA's Office in Brussels

Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister for Education, the Arts and Culture of the Republic of Austria visited ECSA's Brussels Office on 10th of Mai. 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 Secretary General Patrick Ager provided Minister Schmied with a comprehensive information folder on ECSA and welcomed the opportunity to talk informally with the representative of the Austrian government.

The Austrian delegation also included Mr. Hanspeter Huber, Chief of staff of the Ministers' office and Mrs. Heidemarie Meissnitzer, Counsellor of Embassy of the Austrian permanent mission in Brussels.

From Left to Right: Hanspeter Huber, Kathrin Deventer, Patrick Rackow, Claudia Schmied, Patrick Ager

Coercion Committee Meeting

Hosted by John Groves, the Coercion Committee met on 8th of May in Hamburg for a day-long working session. "The meeting was extremely constructive, I didn't expect such inputs. We have now an ambitious action plan for the coming weeks," as pointed out by Committee Chairman Örjan Stranberg when concluding. Among others, the committee discussed in deep the growing business practice that acquiring a composing commission for a film- or TV- production includes signing off a "publishers' share", as high as 50%, to be paid back to the TV-station. This routine had been unanimously declared as an extremely immoral practice retrieving fees to authors' societies on the costs of the creators, thus seriously jeopardizing the living ground of composers. The next meeting of the Committee is set in Bilbao, 10th of June.



ECSA – GESAC Meeting

Headed by Secretary General Véronique Desbrosses, ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager was received by the GESAC team on 5th of May for informal talks. In a friendly and cooperative atmosphere both associations exchanged their views and agreed on keeping in close contact.

The discussion focused mainly on the issue of collective rights management and how to improve the work situation of European composer and songwriter.

EU XXL Forum

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, this year's EU XXL Forum reflected among others also on film music. Mr. Stahmer ensured that the music writers' concerns were taken into account during the Forum and when drafting the EU XXL Resolution.

Deadlines:

Please consider that the deadline for registration as observer to the ECSA Delegation Assembly in Bilbao is set. A form can be downloaded on www.composeralliance.org and is to be returned to info@composeralliance.org until **28th of Mai 2010.**