

European Economic and Social Committee



From left to right: Klaus Ager, Staffan Nilsson, Alfons Karabuda, Patrick Rackow, Patrick Ager

On April 11th a working breakfast took place between ECSCA delegates and Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee.

The meeting proved to be an excellent opportunity for an in-depth discussion on authors' rights, their Collective Management Societies and the necessity for finding new licensing models. Leading the delegation, Alfons Karabuda stressed that whilst ECSCA claims for increased standards on governance, Europe's composers and songwriters consider Authors' Rights Management Societies as vital and indispensable. In particular, Mr. Karabuda pointed out that such societies provide transparency, ensure a diverse European music repertoire and are held accountable by their members. Interested to hear ECSCA's opinion, Mr Nilsson outlined the work of the Committee in this field.

Later the same day, ECSCA delegates met with the Member of the European Parliament Marielle Gallo, who belongs to the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats). Ms. Gallo is also a member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and chaired the EP's working group on authors' rights.

During the meeting, ECSCA representatives raised the significance of Authors' Rights Management Societies and informed Ms. Gallo that ECSCA recently joined the Global Repertoire Database Working Group. ECSCA was represented by Alfons Karabuda, Patrick Ager, Bernard Grimaldi, Klaus Ager and Patrick Rackow.

BASCA CEO addresses EU XXL conference

Patrick Rackow, Chief Executive of the British Academy for Songwriters and Composers addressed the EU XXL on behalf of



ECSCA. The Forum took place in Linz on April 15th and gathers since 2005 stakeholders of the European audiovisual and music sector. Mr. Rackow represented ECSCA on a panel entitled *"Models for the future or water under the bridge? The role of the Collecting Societies in national and European comparison"* and set out what composers and songwriters want from the upcoming EC legislative proposals. Rackow's intervention followed a key-note address of Kerstin Jorna, who works in the Cabinet of Internal Market Commissioner Barnier. Mrs. Jorna informed the forum's participants that the EC legislative proposals will include among other issues the establishment of certain norms and standard related to governance, oversight and accountability.

Board of directors' meeting in Brussels

On April 10th, the chairman of ECSCA's three main music specific networks (classic, popular, film and audiovisual music) met in Brussels in order to discuss ECSCA's internal communication, the alliance's role within the GRD WG, as well as the upcoming General Assembly. On the invitation of Luis Ivars, a Spanish film music composer and current president of FFACE, the next ECSCA General Assembly will be held in the first week of October in Alicante, Spain.