

Autumn Session concludes with concerns on CMR draft directive

ECSA's autumn session was hosted this year by the Croatian Composers' Society HDS and took place on October 3rd and 4th in Zagreb. ECSA delegates from all over Europe gathered in Croatia to discuss and follow up on some of the pressing policy issues affecting them, such as the Directive on Collective Rights Management, unfair contracts, the Global Repertoire Database and recent developments with regards to the private copying levy. The autumn session started with a welcoming reception hosted by HDS, which included the presence of Croatian President and ECSA founding member Ivo Josipović. Furthermore, the gathering contained sessions of the ECSA board, *apcoe*, *fface* and *ecf* committees, as well as the general assembly.

During the meetings ECSA members raised several concerns regarding the proxy provision in the draft Directive on Collective Rights Management Societies, which allows members to appoint agents or lawyers to vote on their behalf. This would not only create an unfair-level-playing field among music writers, but also destroy the carefully achieved balance between the different categories of members of collecting societies - authors, composers and publishers. In addition, ECSA members were strongly concerned about a provision in the draft directive that would allow EU member states to confiscate undistributed funds of collective societies. It was voiced that this money belongs to the community of music writers, who shall collectively decide how to use it, instead of having it confiscated by EU member states.

Private copying levies

ECSA warmly welcomes the draft report by Ms Françoise Castex MEP on private copying levies. This draft initiative report of the European Parliament comes a few months after Mr Vitorino's recommendations on the future of private copying, which mainly echoed the concerns of the importers of IT products subject to the payment of levies (all of which are made outside the EU) and did not take into account the concerns of the cultural sector.



ECSA Vice-President A.T. Šaban, President of Croatia I. Josipović and ECSA President A. Karabuda
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MEP Castex rightly underlines that “culture and artistic creation form the bedrock of the European identity past and present” and that the “private copying system is a virtuous system that balances the right to copying for private use with fair remuneration to rightholders, and that it is a system worth preserving”. The draft report therefore calls on Member States and the Commission to modernise the system and agree on common principles so that private copying levies can continue to provide an invaluable source of income for authors and performers, secure the freedom to copy for consumers and guarantee that those who benefit from the exception through the sales of copy-enabling products also contribute to cultural diversity. To find out more about ECSA position and joint-statement with several other representatives of the creative sector please click [here](#).

Happy Birthday SoundTrack_Cologne!

SoundTrack Cologne celebrates its 10th anniversary on November 21-24. The birthday session includes debates, concerts and workshops all focusing on film and media music. For further information please click [here](#).