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News from Brussels - edition 45 - December 2014

ECCO working group meets in Brussels

4-6 December 2014, Brussels

ECSA organized a 3-day workshop in Brussels with the composers in charge of the “European Contemporary Composers Orchestra” project. More commonly referred to as ECCO, the project aims to establish itself as a pan-European “body of sound” dedicated to the performance, circulation and promotion of contemporary art music. **The next edition of the ECCO concert will close the Creators Conference on 24 February 2015 with the *Sturm und Klang* ensemble.**

Chairwoman of the ECCO working group Jana Andreevska met with fellow composers Dusan Bavdek, Stephen McNeff and Lorenzo Carola. They visited the venue of the concert in BOZAR, had a fruitful meeting with Thomas Van Haepere, artistic leader of *Sturm und Klang* and set out the next steps for the development of the ECCO project. They also had the opportunity to draw inspiration from the Festival Loop to which they were invited by Forum des Compositeurs (see here for a video of the festival <http://youtu.be/zVqQao42m8g>)

Check [here](#) for more information about the ECCO concert on 24 February 2015!

The next edition of the Creators Conference will take place on 23rd and 24th of February 2015 at BOZAR – Centre for fine Arts in Brussels. Please check the [new website](#) and [draft programme](#) of the Creators Conference 2015. The online registration is now open. As the number of seats is limited, we encourage you to register as soon as possible. EMMY Award winner Composer Michael Price, MEP Julie Ward and UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights Farida Shaheed are among the confirmed speakers.

All updates on the speakers and artistic programme available here:
<http://creatorsconference.org/>

Private Copying Exception in the UK: application for Judicial Review

26th November 2014, London, UK

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA), the Musicians' Union (MU) and UK Music have launched an application for Judicial Review of the Government's introduction of a private copying exception without providing fair compensation for songwriters, musicians and other rights holders within the creative sector. The decision of the UK

Government not to provide fair compensation is in stark contrast to the vast majority of countries in Europe who have introduced private copying exceptions. Commenting, Vick Bain, CEO of BASCA said: “We have sought judicial review because of the way the government made its decision not to protect the UK’s creative industries (...). We fully support the right of the consumer to copy legally bought music for their own personal and private use, but there must be fair compensation for the creators of the music. More information [here](#).”

E&Y releases study on contribution of creative and cultural industries to the European economy

On 2 December E&Y released a [study](#) commissioned by GESAC on creative and cultural industries (CCI). The study concludes that with 7 million jobs and half trillion revenues, CCI play a key role in European recovery. They are the third biggest European employer with more than 7 million jobs. CCIs also rely heavily on local work forces, making them a key component of local economic development. They attract young workers who are especially hard-hit by unemployment (they account for over 19% of those working in CCIs.). Finally, during recession (2008-2012), employment in CCIs grew by 0.7% per year, while overall EU employment decreased by 0.7% per year. These figures call for the preservation of a balanced copyright system to allow for the CCI to continue to blossom in Europe.



Study on fair compensation for music creators in the digital age released

Several international organizations representing songwriters and composers recently endorsed a [Study Concerning Fair Compensation for Music Creators in the Digital Age](#). The study was written by Pierre Lalonde, an economist with extensive experience in cultural and copyright issues. He used financial and economic data to explore the current structure of the digital streaming market for music and compared it to other sectors that distribute creative content in order to come up with appropriate valuation of musical works and the equitable split of revenues. The executive summary of the study can be downloaded [here](#).

ECSA is delighted to welcome our new Belgian member Forum des Compositeurs bringing our number of member organizations to 45.



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