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ECSA welcomes EC Communication on online platforms

Brussels, 27.05.2015

The European Commission published on 25 May 2016 a Communication on online platforms with the aim to achieve a fairer allocation of value generated by the online distribution of copyright protected content by online platforms. ECSA welcomes this step, in particular as the Commission also aims to address the issue of fair remuneration of creators in their relations with other parties using their content.

“I am very pleased to see that the Commission works on a solution driven approach, looking at problems in the market and identifying possible solutions. The transfer of value from online platforms is a problem, as much as is the question of unfair contracts, which authors are confronted with when assigning their rights to first intermediaries. Fairer contracts and more transparency will ensure more choice for creators whom to assign their rights to, resulting in a flourishing competitive market of music creation,” comments Alfons Karabuda, President of ECSA.

“A solution driven approach is truly appreciated. Composers and songwriters will be pleased to see that the Commission also assesses the contractual situation authors face when assigning their rights to first intermediaries. Here is where the first value gap appears and the different rules applicable to copyright contracts in EU member states create an unlevel playing field for creators, resulting in legal uncertainty and lack of transparency in the remuneration of creators,” adds Patrick Ager, Secretary General of ECSA.

About ECSA

The European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA) represents over 30,000 music creators in 25 European countries. With 50 member organizations across Europe, the Alliance speaks for the interests of composers of art & classical music (contemporary), film & audiovisual music, as well as popular music.

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