

STATEMENT FROM THE AUTHORS' GROUP ON:

European Commission's proposal for Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on "Copyright in the Digital Single Market"

BRUSSELS, 14 September 2016

The Authors' Group is Europe's leading Authors' network representing more than 500 000 authors, including writers, literary translators, composers, songwriters, journalists, photographers, film/TV directors and screenwriters in Europe. Attached to this statement is a list of the authors' associations represented by the Authors' Group.

Today the European Commission presented its proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market. The Authors' Group welcomes the directive, in particular the proposal to address the key issue of creators' weak bargaining position in their contractual relationships and fair remuneration in contracts.

The Authors' Group supports the European Commission's commitment to address problems related to the forced transfer of rights of authors to publishers, producers and broadcasters. Achieving a well-functioning market-place for copyright must start with establishing a system that allows fair contractual practices for authors and performers, who are affected by a weak bargaining position when assigning their rights to publishers, producers and broadcasters.

The introduction of a mandatory reporting obligation detailing the revenues generated and remuneration due will create more transparency and is a prerequisite for authors and performers to adjust unfair contractual agreements. These new provisions will constitute together with a dispute resolution mechanism an indispensable first step in order to create more sustainable conditions for Europe's creators, who are the origin of Europe's cultural and creative industries. However, authors need further mechanisms against unfair copyright contracts and the undersigning organizations are looking forward to working with the European Parliament and Council in this respect.

The Authors' Group also welcomes the provisions of the directive clarifying the liability of online platforms but considers that substantial work remains to be done with regards to proportionate remuneration of authors, particularly for the online exploitation of their works.

The Authors' Group looks forward to working constructively with all EU institutions and interested parties in this regard.



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

Web: www.composeralliance.org



The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) is the largest organization of journalists in Europe, representing over 320,000 journalists in 61 journalists' organizations across 40 countries. The EFJ fights for social and professional rights of journalists working in all sectors of the media through strong trade unions. It strives to maintain or create environments in which quality, journalistic independence, pluralism, public service values and decent work in the media exist.

Web: www.europeanjournalists.org



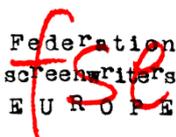
EWC, founded in 1977 in Germany and newly constituted in 2006 in Brussels as an international non-profit organisation, the European Writers' Council is the federation of 50 European national organisations of professional writers and literary translators in all genres in 34 countries, writing altogether in 42 languages. EWC's members represent 433,000 individual creators, including more than 160,000 authors in the text-sector.

Web: www.europeanwriterscouncil.eu



The Federation of European Film Directors (FERA), founded in 1980, represents film and TV directors at European level, with 35 directors' associations as members from 29 countries. We speak for more than 20,000 European screen directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests.

Web: www.filmdirectors.eu



The Federation of Screenwriters Europe is a network of national and regional associations, guilds and unions of writers for the screen in Europe, created in June 2001. It comprises 25 organisations from 19 countries, representing more than 7,000 screenwriters in Europe.

Web: www.scenaristes.org