



## Creators Welcome!

## Conference:

Composers and songwriters, EU policymakers and music business representatives will gather on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 in Brussels in order to find a fair balance between the needs of the creators and those of the

users. The four main panels are entitled: *Content Is King*, *Freedom of Choice*, *A Creative Leap Forward*, *Take it or leave it*.

We are happy to say that already a high number of key policy makers and creators confirmed their participation.

For further information about our speakers, registration procedures and venue, please visit the website [www.creatorsconference.org](http://www.creatorsconference.org).

## Composer Chris Smith addresses the European Parliament



UK composer Chris Smith addressed members of the European Parliament on two occasions last week: First at an internal meeting on copyright related issues organized by the EP's liberal group ALDE. Second at a conference organized by Marietje Schaake on self regulation of internet service providers. Other speakers included Werner Stengg (DG Markt), Nicole Dewandre (DG Information Society), Chris Ancliff (Warner Music Group, IFPI), Joe McNamee (EDRi), Jermyn Brooks (GNI) and Malcolm Hutty (EuroISPA). In his address, Chris Smith highlighted that neither freedom of access to everything, nor draconian levels of governance can be the right solution. Instead, a more active collaboration of all stakeholders should be encouraged with the aim to find the right balance for business representatives, consumers and authors.

Mr. Smith is board member of ECSA and BASCA, the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors and active composer of film, TV and audiovisual music.

For further information on Mr. Smith's intervention please see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3maPxP4d70>

## ARTSFEX, Copenhagen Summit on Artistic Freedom of Expression

International artists, cultural and free speech organisations attended the international summit on artistic freedom of expression in Copenhagen on December 9-11. "We are organizing



this meeting, which we hope will provide the basis for establishing an 'Artsfex' in defense of the artistic freedom of expression, in a similar way as the media organisations have gathered themselves in an IFEX network," as explained by Mr Ole Reitov (Freemuse).

On the first day of the "Summit", representatives of artists and free speech organisations discussed censorship mechanisms and their detrimental effects on a living creative culture. ECSA has been represented by its Chairman, Alfons Karabuda, who participated at the panel *Artists Campaigning for Artists* on censorship and repression.

For further information:

[www.artsfex.org](http://www.artsfex.org)

## ECSA Secretary General visits members in Copenhagen, Helsinki and Paris

Secretary General Patrick Ager visited last November composer and songwriter organisations in Denmark, Finland and France. Together with representatives of DPA, DKF and DJBFA (Denmark), Elvis and Suomen Säveltäjät Ry (Finland), UCMF, SNAC and UNAC (France), Patrick assessed recent developments of copyright related issues discussed at the European Parliament as well other discussion items high on the agenda of ECSA's upcoming Annual General Assembly.

## Best wishes!

ECSA wishes all its members, partners and supporters a merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2012! We look forward to seeing you next year!