

Creators Conference, Brussels

Composers and Songwriters from all over Europe, the US and Zimbabwe met in Brussels on February 2nd – 4th to celebrate the 2nd edition of the Creators Conference.



Let's start with music! ECSA organized for the official opening of the conference a concert introducing Coro Gabriel (Sardinia), Alpha (Denmark), Klaus Risager

(Denmark), Hush (Denmark) and Jean-Michel Bernard (France). The Creators Conference gathered composers, songwriters, performers, as well as music industry stakeholders and policy makers. Key-note speeches were held by: Alfons Karabuda (ECSA Chairman), Paul Brickhill (Harare Book Café, Zimbabwe), Robert Levine (Journalist and author), Maria-Martin Prat (European Commission) and John Groves (media music composer, producer). The issue of authors' rights was heavily debated during the panel entitled "Freedom of Choice", which dealt with the key question of whether authors still have control over the destiny of their works on the internet. Chaired by BASCA CEO Patrick Rackow, the panel included MEP Helga Trüpel, Barbara Glowacka (EC DG COMP), Andy Baum (Austrian composer and songwriter), Helienne Lindwall (Journalist and songwriter), Jean Bergervin (EC counter fight and piracy) and Rick Carnes (Songwriters Guild of America). An introductory speech was held by journalist Robert Levine.

For a detailed summary of the discussion please click here: http://www.composeralliance.org/?page_id=160

Videos of the Creators Conference

We are happy to announce that the videos of the opening concert and conference panels have been uploaded on our website www.creatorsconference.org. Enjoy!



Top photo: Hush - Dorte Gerlach & Michael Hartmann
Bottom photo: Coro Gabriel
Photographer: Frank Haller



ECSA Annual General Assembly

ECSA also held its Annual General Assembly in the framework of the Creators Conference. On top of the agenda were updates on ECSA's actions against coercive practices in the commissioning of media music, GRD and IMR developments and internal issues such as budget and enhancing the effectiveness of ECSA. The next ECSA meeting will take place on October 7th and 8th in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Songwriters Guild of America

On the 1st of February a delegation of the Songwriters Guild of America (Rick Carnes, Janis Carnes, Janie Ross Coulter, Charlie Sanders) met with ECSA representatives (Alfons Karabuda and Patrick Ager) to discuss the setting up of an intensified cross Atlantic collaboration and a network of authors in order to address common constraints faced in the light of industry mergers and the digital era.

SGA was founded in 1931 and acts as America's leading interest representation for songwriters and lyricists.

For more information please visit: <http://www.songwritersguild.com>

ECSA - New Office

Starting with 1st of March, ECSA will change its office location, moving to Avenue de la Toison d'Or 60C, 1060 Brussels.

The new office will be shared with the Federation of European Film Directors (FERA), managed by film director Elizabeth O. Sjaastad.