



From left to right: Alfons Karabuda (ECSA), Helienne Lindvall (BASCA), James Duffett-Smith (Spotify) and Elizabeth Moody (Pandora) – Creators’ Roundtable, New York, 20 November 2015 © ECSA

Music writers foster dialogue with digital music services

Legislative and legal questions, as well as issues related to the sustainable development of digital music services were high on the agenda at the Creators’ Roundtables held in Washington DC on 18 November and in New York on 20 November 2015. The events, organized by ECSA in the framework of the Creative Europe programme, included an in-depth exchange of views with leading representatives of the US Copyright Office, the US Senate and Congress, as well as with representatives from the music publishing and digital streaming sectors. The conversations especially targeted transparency throughout the music industry value chain and equitable remuneration for music writers.

The first Creators’ Roundtable in Washington DC focused on legal and legislative issues with the participation of General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights, Jacqueline Charlesworth and Deputy General Counsel Sarang Damle on behalf of the US Copyright Office. The Creators’ Roundtable in New York concentrated on the music sector, particularly with regards to licensing practices of music streaming services. Elizabeth Moody (Pandora) and James Duffett-Smith (Spotify) joined more than 40 participants from leading European and North-American creator groups, as well as publishers and tech companies for a workshop on sustainable future business models. All participants agreed to work hard on establishing more fairness and transparency in music licensing practices, as well as encouraging the music industry to further develop projects that establish better accuracy in metadata management. The Creators Roundtable successfully unlocked a commitment for further collaboration in the framework of the Creators’ Network, an informal platform to set up working groups on transparency and fairness in the digital value chain.

The Creators’ Roundtable was hosted by ECSA in association with SKAP, MCNA, STIM and CIAM. Further partners were the International Music Council, the Pan-African Composer and Songwriter Alliance and ALCAM – the Alliance of Latin American Creators of Music.

For pictures of the event make sure to visit our facebook page on: www.facebook.com/composeralliance

ECSA backs authors’ rights at EP

On 19 November 2015, ECSA participated in a conference organized by the S&D Group in the European Parliament. Under the title ‘Digital Data in the EU - Happily Ever After or Content Unavailable’, panelists, guests and the audience discussed the introduction of further exceptions and limitations as well as geo-blocking and portability in light of the current copyright reform.

ECSA, represented by its French delegate Wally Badarou, stressed the importance of a strong legal framework that guarantees exclusive rights over authorial works. “I am not just a creator of content, I am a creator of culture”, stated Mr. Badarou, whose intervention was followed by applause from fellow conference participants.



Composer and ECSA member Wally Badarou © ECSA

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