

Press release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Creators Conference: awarded “Best International Congress” from VISITBRUSSELS.

Yesterday, Thursday 20th of June, emotions were high at the VISITBRUSSELS awards ceremony when ECSA was honoured with the recognition of “Best International Congress” for its Creators Conference.

This year’s VISITBRUSSELS ceremony gathered dozens of organisations from the cultural, touristic and innovation sectors. All were recognized for having had the best and creative initiatives in town and contributing to the growing international reputation of Brussels.



(Minister Frémault and ECSA team Ager, Kubok, and Saturno)

The **Creators Conference**, nominated in the “**Best International Congress**” category along with two prestigious scientific conferences, was awarded the prize by Minister of Economy and Employment from the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, Céline Frémault. Upon receiving the prize, Secretary General Patrick Ager thanked “*all the supporters, partners and voters involved*” and was pleased to see that “*the topics at the spotlight of the Conference, freedom of speech, new*

technologies and authors' rights were acknowledged by the jury as important and found such a wide support by the public".

The third edition of the **Creators Conference** took place on February 19-20 and brought together creators, music business representatives and EU politicians allowing the creation of closer co-operation and direct synergies on crucial issues such as freedom of speech, new technologies and authors' rights.

Highlights of the conference were the intervention from Yekaterina Samutsevich (from the band "Pussy Riot") who stressed the importance of freedom of speech and better protection of moral rights, as well as the adoption of ECSA's [declaration on the exclusive assignment of performing rights to Collective Management Societies](#).

"The Creators Conference aimed at giving our perspective on issues important to the whole creative industry, seen from a creator's point of view, but with an added value for all. This award encourages us even more to be a facilitator for those wanting to take an active part in shaping their future." Alfons Karabuda – President of ECSA.

About the Creators Conference:

The Creators Conference was initiated in 2009 by ECSA President Alfons Karabuda as a project of SKAP, the Swedish Association of Popular Music Composers. The first Creators Conference took place in 2009 in Stockholm, with two further editions in 2012 and 2013 in Brussels. The purpose of the event is to create new and unique synergies for music composers and European policy makers.

To view a short film of the highlights of the Creators Conference 2013 please click [here](#).

About ECSA:

ECSA is the umbrella association of over 40 professional guilds of songwriters and composers of any genres of music. ECSA's core mission is to defend and promote the rights of composers and songwriters with the aim of improving their social and economic condition as well as their artistic freedom. ECSA is registered under Belgium law as international non-profit organisation and is financed by contribution of members, as well as by the EC DG EACEA's Cultural Fund.

ECSA is registered in the Transparency Register of the European Commission.

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