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Society of Audiovisual Authors
Société des Auteurs Audiovisuels



PRESS RELEASE

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Audiovisual organisations unveil new international legal study supporting fair remuneration for audiovisual authors

May 14th, 2018 – Organisations representing authors in the audiovisual sector today welcomed a new global study calling for legal reforms to help screenwriters and directors earn royalties for the use of their works.

As filmmakers gather at the Cannes International Film Festival, leading screenwriters and directors are supporting the call - highlighted by the study - for audiovisual authors to have a guaranteed right of equitable remuneration when their works are used by digital services and other users.

In many countries, these creators do not have this right enshrined in the law and so are unable to share in the commercial success of their films and TV programmes. Instead they often have to sign over their rights to producers with whom they have little or no power to negotiate.

Commissioned by the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) and Writers & Directors Worldwide (W&DW), this new international legal study is the first-ever comprehensive examination of global legislation to support reforms bringing fair payment to audiovisual authors. It is supported by the Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA), which is leading efforts to amend EU legislation, bolstered by a declaration by 126 prominent screenwriters and directors across Europe and supported by an [online petition](#) signed by over 15,000 people from more than 100 countries.

The complete study, as well as a 6-page summary, are made available today.

Written by copyright law specialist and Universitat Oberta de Catalunya Intellectual Property Chair Professor, Raquel Xalabarder, the study recommends an international legal framework for introducing an unwaivable and inalienable remuneration right for audiovisual authors. This would benefit all parties without impinging on the commercial exploitation by the producer. The framework proposed complies with international and EU copyright obligations.

The new study provides a clear legislative blueprint for decision makers to ensure all audiovisual authors benefit equally, regardless of their country of origin or of audiovisual production.

Jia Zhang-ke, filmmaker whose film “Ash is purest White” competes for the Palme d’Or and CISAC Vice President said: “It is a matter of fairness. We need legal mechanisms that allow filmmakers and screenwriters to be compensated for the multiples uses of their works. This is truly necessary in the current digital ecosystem in which our works have the amazing potential to reach audiences around the world in the most direct way but for which we do not get fairly compensated.”

Julie Bertuccelli, film director and SAA patron said: “It is a true pleasure as a director to see my films being shown around the world. However, in order to make a living from my art, my collective management society must be able to represent my rights and negotiate remunerations with those exploiting my works, including video-on-demand platforms.”

W&DW President, Horacio Maldonado, said: “Audiovisual creators should no longer be deprived of their rights. Cultural diversity is at stake: at a time when growing market concentration means media giants often control the audiovisual landscape and broadcasting circuits, it is essential creators are given proper bargaining tools that enable them to continue making their voices heard, sharing their stories worldwide for generations to come.”

Background for Editors

- International momentum has been in the last few years pushing for the introduction of the right internationally. Chile adopted the game-changing Ricardo Larrain Law in 2016. In May 2017, Colombian screenwriters and directors obtained the unwaivable right to remuneration with the Pepe Sánchez Act. Brazil is currently examining similar legislation. In Europe, remuneration rights have been existing in several countries for a long time, such as in Belgium, France, Italy, Poland and Spain.
- At EU level, the Culture and Industry committees of the European Parliament proposed to introduce an unwaivable and inalienable right for remuneration to audiovisual authors for the on-demand exploitation of their works in the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market. Discussions are now on-going in the Legal Affairs' committee for a vote before the summer.
- A recent [survey](#) underlines the discriminatory treatment of screenwriters and directors in Europe. Commissioned by the Federation of European Film Directors (FERA) and the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE), it shows 75% of screenwriters and directors experience substantial financial insecurity despite the surge of new online platforms disseminating their works.

For 6-page summary of the study go [here](#).

To see the full study go [here](#).



Contacts

CISAC

The International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers – is the world's leading network of authors' societies. With 239 member societies in 121 countries, CISAC represents over four million creators from all geographic regions and artistic repertoires including music, audiovisual, drama, literature and visual arts. Founded in 1926, it is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation with headquarters in France and regional offices in Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Europe.

www.cisac.org | Twitter: [@CISACNews](#) | Facebook: [CISACWorldwide](#).

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SAA

Founded in 2010, the Society of Audiovisual Authors is the association of European collective management organisations representing audiovisual authors. Its 32 members in 24 countries manage rights for over 138,000 film, television and multimedia European screenwriters and directors.

<http://www.saa-authors.eu/> | Twitter: [@saabrussels](#) | Facebook: [SAA](#)

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W&DW

Writers and Directors Worldwide is an umbrella organisation that provides a forum for cooperation, networking and support for dramatic, literary and audiovisual creators in all regions of the world. It helps to facilitate the sharing of ideas, information, best practices and practical advice to defend authors' rights in these important artistic repertoires.

<http://www.writersanddirectorsworldwide.org/>