
JOINT STATEMENT

THE EU URGENTLY NEEDS REMUNERATION RULES FOR AUTHORS AND PERFORMERS

As the negotiations on the proposed Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market are drawing to a conclusion, European and international authors and performers' organisations from all sectors urge the EU negotiators to strengthen the much-needed Article -14 providing for fair and proportionate remuneration for authors and performers, and to adopt Articles 14, 15 and 16 as they stand, as a first step in the right direction to reform EU copyright to the benefit of Europe's authors and performers.

The opening provision in Chapter 3 sets a fundamental guiding principle for the remuneration of authors and performers, which should be fair and proportionate to all revenues generated by their work.

Capital and business in the cultural and creative industries have long enjoyed a dominant position over authors and performers, who are grossly underpaid for their work and can barely sustain a decent living as freelancers or employees. The overall regulatory environment supporting the cultural and creative industries does not adequately protect them, as the weakest party, it mostly supports the industry.

The core value of the copyright licensing system relies on the creativity of authors and performers. Their remuneration should therefore be at the heart of the industries' business model and not be considered merely as an adjustment variable.

This is what Article -14 and Recital 39y should acknowledge: that authors and performers must get a fair share of all the revenues generated by their work. In light of the unbalanced bargaining position of most authors and performers when discussing their terms and conditions of engagement, various mechanisms exist today to warrant their proportionate remuneration across cultural and creative sectors worldwide. The proportionate remuneration of authors and performers and the principle asserting it must encompass all such mechanisms. Art -14 must therefore clarify that Member States shall implement the principle of fair and proportionate remuneration through different mechanisms, including collective bargaining agreements, collective rights management or statutory remuneration mechanisms, to collectively protect authors and performers and address the specificities of each sector and category of creators.

We call on the EU institutions to strengthen Article -14 and Recital 39y and caution against the adoption of any element that would marginalise authors and performers or deprive them of a fair and proportionate share of the revenue generated by their work.

It is now up to the Council, the European Parliament and Commission to deliver on previous general statements in favour of authors and performers. It is time to agree, in this last round of trilogue negotiations, on a meaningful Article -14 that is a first step forward in ensuring Member States provide authors and performers with a fair and equitable remuneration from digital services when their works and performances are made available online. We also urge the Council, the European Parliament and Commission to adopt Articles 14, 15 and 16 as they currently are and resist calls to weaken them further.

7 February 2019



Association of European Performers' Organisations

Xavier Blanc, General Secretary



International Council of Music Creators

Eddie Schwartz, President



International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers

Gadi Oron, Director General



European Composer & Songwriter Alliance

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European Visual Artists

Carola Streul, Secretary General



European Writers' Council

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Federation of European Film Directors

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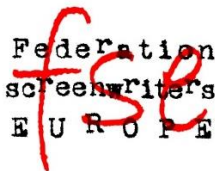
International Federation of Actors

Dominick Luquer, General Secretary



International Federation of Musicians

Benoît Machuel, General Secretary



Federation of Screenwriters in Europe

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International Artists Organisation

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