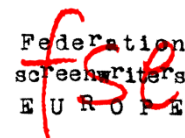




Federation of European Film Directors



**STATEMENT FROM THE AUTHORS' GROUP ON:  
EC COMMUNICATION "TOWARDS A MODERN, MORE EUROPEAN COPYRIGHT  
FRAMEWORK"**

BRUSSELS 10.12.2015

The Authors' Group is the prime EU Authors' network representing more than 500 000 authors, including writers, literary translators, composers, songwriters, journalists, film directors and screenwriters in Europe. Attached to this statement is a list of the authors' associations represented by the Authors' Group.

On 9 December 2015, the EU Commission published a Communication to the European Parliament and the Council entitled "Towards a modern, more European copyright framework". The Authors' Group welcomes the EU Commission Communication, particularly as it addresses several problems in light of the digital environment. Thus it understands that achieving a well-functioning market-place for copyright depends on establishing a system allowing fair remuneration for authors and performers, who are affected by a weak bargaining position when assigning their rights to publishers and producers. The Authors' Group calls upon the EU Commission to act to ensure at EU level a better protection of authors against unfair contracts. Achieving a modern, more European copyright framework fully depends on how authors are treated and remunerated in a highly competitive market-place. The Authors' Group is ready to work with the EU Commission and all interested parties to this end.

The undersigning organizations take note and support the EU Commission's announcement of examining possible definitions of the '*making available*' and '*communication to the public*' rights with the objective that value be fairly shared when copyright protected works are exploited on online distribution channels and online platforms involving the commercial re-use or retransmission of copyright-protected content. Concerning the issue of providing an effective and balanced enforcement system, the Authors' Group believes that the approach laid down by the Communication, especially with regards to the 'follow-the-money' and 'notice and stay-down' approaches, provides a sensible way in order to achieve the given objective.

The Authors' Group also takes note of the EU Commission's view to ensure that copyright-protected content is more easily accessed on a cross-border basis as well as more 'portable'. Whilst not disclosed in greater detail how this objective can be achieved, the Authors' Group wishes to emphasize that the principles of territoriality of copyright shall not be questioned. The authors' future, especially in the audio-visual sector, fully depend on new productions, which rely largely on territorial licensing. In this context, the Authors' Group encourages the EU Commission and the relevant stakeholders to join efforts in order to ensure that consumers can access author's works as widely as possible throughout the EU.

Finally, the Authors' Group wishes to emphasize that any discussion on further exceptions to the exclusive rights of authors must firstly contain an impact assessment of the potential loss of revenues for authors and other right holders. Author's rights is a law dedicated to authors and their works of arts and it must be taken into consideration that weakening the exclusive rights will result in a loss of income to authors, less value for the cultural and creative industries and ultimately a diminishing European repertoire of cultural works of music, literature and film.



The European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA) represents over 30,000 professional composers and songwriters in 23 European countries. With 45 member organizations across Europe, the Alliance speaks for the interests of music creators of art & classical music (contemporary), film & audiovisual music, as well as popular music.

Web: [www.composeralliance.org](http://www.composeralliance.org)



The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) is the largest organization of journalists in Europe, representing over 320,000 journalists in 61 journalists' organizations across 40 countries. The EFJ fights for social and professional rights of journalists working in all sectors of the media through strong trade unions. It strives to maintain or create environments in which quality, journalistic independence, pluralism, public service values and decent work in the media exist.

Web: [www.europeanjournalists.org](http://www.europeanjournalists.org)



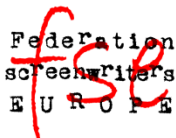
The European Writers' Council (EWC) is the federation of 50 European national organisations of professional writers and literary translators in all genres in 34 European countries, writing altogether in 42 languages. EWC's members represent 433,000 individual creators, including more than 160,000 authors in the text and book-sectors.

Web: [www.europeanwriterscouncil.eu](http://www.europeanwriterscouncil.eu)



The Federation of European Film Directors (FERA), founded in 1980, represents film directors at European level, with 35 directors associations as members from 29 countries. We speak for more than 20,000 European screen directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests at the national and European level.

Web: [www.filmdirectors.eu](http://www.filmdirectors.eu)



The Federation of Screenwriters Europe is a network of national and regional associations, guilds and unions of writers for the screen in Europe, created in June 2001. In 2011, it comprises 25 from 19 countries, representing more than 7,000 writers in Europe.

Web: [www.scenaristes.org](http://www.scenaristes.org)