

INVITATION: PRESS CONFERENCE – 10 June 2022, 11:30 Madrid becomes the European writers' capital

From 10 to 12 June 2022, Madrid will become the capital of European writers. The General Annual Assembly of the European Writers' Council will be hosted by the Asociación Colegial de Escritores (ACE), and the event will have the collaboration of the Centro Español de Derechos Reprográficos (CEDRO) and the Círculo de Bellas Artes (CBA) - Casa de Europa. Extra: Upon request you will have the opportunity to receive exclusive short texts translated into Spanish by Belarusian and Ukrainian authors.

The **European Writers' Council (EWC)** will hold its most important meeting of the year at the Círculo de Bellas Artes. 41 delegates from 21 countries, representing 160,000 writers and translators from the European book sector, will discuss the political, economic and literary challenges, both present and future. The event will conclude on Sunday with the General Annual Assembly, not open to the public, at which new member organisations will be ratified, and the future political visions for writers and translators in the European book sector will be set out.

To report on the event, which will take place over three days in one of Europe's most beautiful centres of culture, we invite you and your colleagues to the

**Press conference on Friday, 10 June 2022, from 11:30 (duration: 45 minutes),
at the Círculo de Bellas Artes, Alcalá, 42, 28014 MADRID, Sala de Juntas (Board Room), 3rd floor.**

"It is an honour for us to meet our colleagues at the "House of Europe" in person for the first time after three years of a very serious health, social and economic crisis and at one of the most decisive moments for Europe and the book sector in recent years," says **Nina George**, President of the European Writers' Council (EWC), underlining the significance of this event. George adds: "We are at a crucial moment for the freedom, diversity and viability of the sources of the entire book culture and literary economy, whether it is the management of intellectual property law, whether it is the changes in the field of artificial intelligence, and above all: how we are going to respond to dictatorial, warlike and free speech attacks on writers, media and cultural professionals."

For **Manuel Rico**, President of ACE, "hosting this event in Madrid at a time of such importance for the future of Europe after almost three years of pandemic and with a war close to its borders, is an honour and a satisfaction. It is also a way of highlighting the commitment of Spanish writers to the deepest values of European literature and its authors and to the defence of freedom of expression, copyright and civility, today threatened from different fronts. Without authors there is no culture."

At the press conference, we will highlight the 5 issues that are likely to shape the world of books and their authors and translators in Europe over the next 20 years, an era marked by the advance of information technologies, artificial intelligence and the demands of the digital market in the field of culture and, in particular, literature and books.

- The transposition of the European Copyright Directive (2019/790) into the Digital Single Market **by ensuring that authors receive "the appropriate share of the revenues"** generated by the use of their content by Information Society Platforms as royalties and **through collective management by collecting societies.**
- The EWC survey on contract law in Europe also showed in particular the growing importance of **common remuneration rules and more author-friendly contracts.** Streaming

monopolies and online platforms such as Amazon must comply with EU law, especially on remuneration and documentation of use.

- Increasing the **resources allocated to public library lending**. Its payment must be guaranteed by all administrations with the consensus of all sectors involved. We demand a higher remuneration for public library lending in all European countries. The future of education and literacy must no longer be at the expense of authors; we need a common pact for education and significant budgets.
- Improving **working and contractual conditions and social protection** for authors who are **self-employed**, bringing Spanish legislation into line with the most advanced in the European Union. Furthermore, an artists' social insurance and pension scheme should be harmonised throughout Europe.
- Implement **systems of transparency in the fulfilment of contracts between authors and publishers** in the traceability of sales of contracted books. This also applies across borders, especially to the growing digital distribution of works. Europe's book sector is going digital - but only the usage overview guarantees fair remuneration and sustainability.

At the press conference, we will briefly introduce the EWC and its missions; the current work of the Association of Writers' Associations (ACE); explain the programme of cultural activities and debates during the event days; and the highlights of the CBA programme. Also we will present within an exclusive preview the **#FreeAllWords (freeallwords.org)** translation-project to support writers from Belarus or Ukraine, whose freedom of expression is under threat. **Important: we can offer you free of charge short texts already translated into Spanish by the translator Ángela Espinosa Ruiz and by the following authors from Ukraine and Belarus for pre-publication in your medium. You will receive the dossier upon request.**

Kaclaryna Andrejeva (BELARUS): A POEM FROM BEHIND BARS
Svetlana Lavochkina (UKRAINE): EL JARDÍN DE LAS DELICIAS DEL DONBÁS
Barys Platovič (BELARUS): ADVERTISEMENT OF DICTATORSHIP
Ángela Espinosa Ruiz (SPAIN): TRANSLATIONS

The participants in the press conference will be as follows:

- **Nina George**, President of the European Writers' Council (EWC), international bestselling novelist.
- **Manuel Rico**, President of the Asociación Colegial de Escritores (ACE), Spanish poet, narrator and literary critic.
- **Valerio Rocco Lozano**, Director of the Círculo de Bellas Artes (CBA) of Madrid.
- **Miguel Ángel Serrano**, Secretary General of the Asociación Colegial de Escritores (ACE) and Vice President of the European Writers' Council (EWC).
- **Nicolas Couchepin**, President of the A*dS – Swiss professional association of authors and literary translators (CH), writer and translator.

The press conference will be held in English, Spanish and German.

Light refreshments will be served.

We would very much like to count on your participation, please send us your pre-registration before June 8th to the following email: ace@acescritores.com

We look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues to the CBA! If you are unable to attend, we can send you a press release afterwards, and if you wish, we can put you in touch with the participants for a personal conversation. We will also have at your disposal the catalogue of the debates of the EWC Assembly, shared by the Asociación Colegial de Escritores de España.

Best regards,

Manuel Rico
President ACE

Nina George
President EWC

For more information: Pedro Villora, Member for Communication and Social Networks, ace@acescritores.com.
Further Contact details: Asociación Colegial de Escritores (ACE): ace@acescritores.com (Spanish), **European Writers' Council:** Nina George, president@europeanwriterscouncil.eu, **FreeAllWords:** Susanne Tenzler, media@freeallwords.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The European Writers' Council (EWC) is a Federation of 46 national writers' and translators' organisations in 30 countries, representing 160,000 authors, writing in 31 languages. It was founded in 1977 and established as the representative of European writers in 2006 in Brussels (Belgium). **EWC defends** the professional interests of its members in economic, legal and political contexts; their right to remuneration and compensation for their works; their relevance to cultural and social policies; freedom of expression; the right of association; and the importance of lesser spoken and written languages. **EWC is determined to address and publicly present** the commitment of professional writers and translators to shape the image of Europe through individual creativity, within the diversity of expressions of the wide variety of living European languages. **EWC Board of Directors 2021-2023:** <https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/ewc-board/>

The Asociación Colegial de Escritores (ACE) is hosting the three-day event and welcomes all delegates from the European Writers' Council (EWC). Founded in 1976 and legalised in 1978, ACE is the largest professional organisation of writers in Spain and brings together writers who write in Castilian or Spanish or the other co-official languages of Spain. It is made up of **more than 2,100 writers**, translators and playwrights based in Spain, the rest of Europe and Latin America. ACE provides services, information and legal advice to its members and is an interlocutor with the Administration and with the professional bodies of publishers, booksellers and distributors in the defence of the interests of authors, intellectual property and the social and labour rights of writers and translators. It has autonomous sections for theatre (**AAT**), translators (**ACEtt**) and Andalusia (**ACE-Andalucía**). Since 2019 it has been promoting the **ACE Ángel María de Lera Award** for the promotion of the work of writers. **ACE Board of Directors 2019-2023:** [ACEscritores Board of Directors](#)

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#FREEALLWORDS Upon request to Pedro Villora ace@acescritores.com or Susanne Tenzler media@freeallwords.org, we will send you translated texts by Belarusian and Ukrainian authors and the brief information brochure of the #FreeAllWords programme. In the exclusive dossier for the Spanish Media you will find the detailed project description, the biographical details of the authors from Belarus and Ukraine and their translator from Spain, and all texts available in Spanish (poetry and verse), as well as the conditions for publication.

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If you have any further requests, please write to Mrs Susanne Tenzler (English, Portuguese): media@freeallwords.org

www.freeallwords.org