

Federation of Screenwriters in Europe
General Assembly
Brussels, 28 March 2009

Minutes

The minutes refer to the following documents:

- Agenda
- FSE Minutes of the General Assembly / Berlin 6-7 February 2008
- Annual FSE activity report 2008
- Annex 2 – Promotion Campaigns
- Annex 3 – Paragraph 11 of the Statutes
- FSE accounts January-December 2008
- Members reports

Were present:

Neubacher	Christian	Austria	Drehbuchverband Austria	CN
Schweiger	Ulrike	Austria	Drehbuchverband Austria	US
Denis	Laurent	Belgium	ASA	LD
Van Rompaey	Gerry	Belgium	Scenaristengilde vzw	GVR
De Graeve	Pieter	Belgium	Scenaristengilde vzw	PDG
Semerdjiev	Stanislav	Bulgaria	BAFTRS	SS
Besserglik	Bernard	France	Union-Gilde des Scénaristes	BB
Verry	Elizabeth	France	Union-Gilde des Scénaristes	EV
Kallas	Christina	Germany	VDD German Screenwriters	CK
Kakavas	Alexander	Greece	ESE	AK
Baldvinsson	Sven	Iceland	Félag leikskálda og handritshöfunda	SB
O'Reilly	Audrey	Ireland	Irish Playwrights and Screenwriters Guild	AOR
Kavanagh	David	Ireland	Irish Playwrights and Screenwriters Guild	DK
Cesarano	Daniele	Italy	SACT	DC
Ventriglia	Gino	Italy	SACT	GV
Ildahl	Eirik	Norway	Norske Dramatikeres Forbund	EI
Kos-Krauze	Joanna	Poland	Stowarzyszenie Filmowcow Polskich, Koło Scenarzystów	JKK
Kujawska	Oriana	Poland	Stowarzyszenie Filmowcow Polskich, Koło Scenarzystów	OK
Camisão	Bernardo	Portugal	APAD	BC
Pérez	Silvia	Spain	ALMA	SP
Moscardo	Juanjo	Spain	FAGA	JM
Lithell	Sanna	Sweden	Sveriges Dramatikerförbund	SL
Ahlgren	Camilla	Sweden	Sveriges Dramatikerförbund	CA
Zeegers	Anne	The Netherlands	Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers	AZ

Sedef	Ecer	Turkey	SENDER	ES
Haluk	Ünal	Turkey	SENDER	ÜH
Corbett	Bernie	UK	Writers' Guild of Great Britain	BC
Way	Katharine	UK	Writers' Guild of Great Britain	KW
(Clément	Amélie		Manager FSE	AC)

Were absent (excused):

Surchat	Jacqueline	Switzerland	SENARIO
Name ?	Name ?	Denmark	Danske Dramatikere
Pyhältö	Markus	Finland	Suomen Näytelmäkirjailijaliitto - Finlands Dramatikerförbund ry
Krigler	Gábor	Hungary	Magyar Forгатókönyvírók Egyesülete

Were absent (no news):

Name ?	Name ?	Serbia	NEZAVISNOST
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Proxy:

Krigler Gábor > Christina Kallas

Total: 18 votes (1)

The meeting was introduced by President Christina Kallas (CK), followed by a round-table.

1/ A new member : the Polish Filmmakers Association

CK introduced Oriana KUJAWSKA and Joanna KOS-KRAUZE, representing the Polish Filmmakers Association. They distributed a booklet presenting the organisation, explained that the situation for making movies in Poland is not bad as funds exist to support it, but that the weak point is the Law. They would like to share the FSE members' experience in this matter and confirmed their wish to join FSE. **The General Assembly unanimously approved this new membership.** FSE now counts 28 guilds in 22 countries

2/ Agenda

Refer to doc: agenda

The members discussed the contents and order of the agenda. Most of them asked the Board to organise the next general assemblies on two days instead of one. The Board acknowledged this remark.

One modification of the present agenda was submitted to the vote: the organisation of the election of the Board after lunch (14 Yes / 2 abstentions). **The General Assembly approved the agenda.**

3/ Minutes

Refer to doc: FSE Minutes of the General Assembly / Berlin 6-7 February 2008

The General Assembly unanimously approved the minutes.

4/ Activity report 2008

Refer to doc: Annual FSE activity report 2008

In order not to repeat the contents of the fully detailed report, only additional points discussed during the meeting are reported in these minutes. Please carefully read the *Annual FSE activity report 2008* for details.

The participants discussed chapters 4 to 11 of the above mentioned report.

4 – Current activities at the EU Commission and Parliament

DK talked about the current political situation in Europe, quiet for the moment, due to several reasons: the Irish “No” to the Lisbon Treaty; the Czech collapse; the parliamentary election at the end of June; the replacement of the EU Commission in October.

On Creative Content Online: stand-by for the moment but the discussion may rise again.

FSE will soon send some information from WGA about their campaign on Product Placement.

5 – Communication with the members

Sharing information

CK invited the members to share information with the others about things happening in their own country and to respond to FSE’s requests for datas (partly for the production of leaflets).

FSE website

FSE needs a more effective tool and has chosen a French company, Hecube, to do a new website (budget 5000 euros). Particularity: the front page would be fed with info from the member guilds’ websites (no translation is planned).

Objective: give the idea of a strong community of screenwriters.

SP suggested to put some info on the website on the minimum agreements with producers in each member country, some basic facts for orientation, as well as the average salary for TV episodes and films. DK said that this question had already been raised. It needs the preparation of a questionnaire. IAWG tried to make a comparative document on agreements but these datas change all the time.

6 – Leaflet on Development State Aid

CK asked for rapid action from the members regarding the various leaflets FSE has planned to publish, especially for the coming one on “Collective Societies”.

SB distributed the new leaflet on “Effective State Aid for Screenwriting and Development”. The Policy Paper contains lots of good arguments to lobby at national level. The aim of the leaflets is to focus on certain aspects of the Policy Paper. Point 2 of the leaflet on “Effective State Aid for Screenwriting and Development” details a successful lobbying action in Germany that used arguments from the Policy Paper. He invited the member guilds to use and distribute the leaflet among their members. CK said that it is the right time in most countries to make use of these arguments. Each good example in a country should be shared with the other member guilds.

7 – Second Conference of Screenwriters, Athens, November 2009

CK said that the quality of the conference is dependant on getting good people. Members are invited to suggest “recognisable on international level” people who should be invited to the conference.

8 – Promoting the FSE and its goals through the Manifesto

Refer to doc: www.scenaristes.org

Suggestion: a member talks about the necessity to educate the critics: writing about the director's work is not the same as writing about the writers' work.

9 – Promotion Campaigns

Refer to doc: Annex 2 / Promotion Campaigns

SB gave the example of a campaign launched by Saatchi & Saatchi in Germany at no cost : several posters with the sentence "No script No film". An example for FSE?

PDG asked about the Screenwriters Festival in Grasse: is it still a priority? BB answered that it would have been great to do it but unfortunately the benevolent cinema owner moved to Corsica. However this festival could be organised in any country, once a year, with a selection of the best screenplays. It would be very cost-effective and would raise the profile of FSE.

SP suggested that FSE could offer to some festivals in Europe to propose a jury that will reward the best screenplays.

10 – Mentoring Scheme and Script Registration Scheme

SS explained the objective: proposing new schemes, closer to our practices, in order to make FSE more interesting. However FSE needs money to be able to put these projects into action.

CK invited the member guilds to help FSE in developing projects and implementing new ideas. The members will be invited to join working groups.

11 – Paragraph 11 of the Statutes : Executive Committee – Composition and Generality.

Refer to doc: Annex 3 - Paragraph 11 – Executive Committee – Composition and Generality

SS proposed to do some changes in the statutes (paragraph 11). The members discussed several points of the proposed amendments. The proposal and remarks will be submitted to the vote of the General Assembly later during the meeting.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the Annual FSE activity report 2008.

5/ Financial report 2008

Refer to doc: FSE accounts January-December 2008

The General Assembly unanimously approved the financial report.

6 / Modification of the Statutes

Refer to doc: Annex 3 - Paragraph 11 – Executive Committee – Composition and Generality

Before the election of the new Board, CK asked if the General Assembly would want to modify the statutes according to the changes proposed in *Annex 3 – Paragraph 11*, entirely or partly. SS handled with the organisation of the votes.

1) "Do we need to change anything to the statutes?"

Vote: 2 No, 3 abstentions, **13 Yes**

2) "Do we change the duration of term?" - *see Proposal for change in a)*

Vote:

- to 3 years = 2 Yes

- to 2 years = 8 Yes
- no change = 6 Yes

3) "Do we change the duration of term to 2 years?"

vote: **13 Yes**

→ **The General Assembly approved the change of duration of mandate to 2 years.**

4) Vote on including point *b)* of the referred document. "*No member on the Executive Committee shall serve more than three terms (6 years).*"

Vote: **18 No**

5) Vote on including point *c)* of the referred document : "*No member on the Executive Committee shall serve more than two consecutive terms (4 years).*"

Vote: **18 No**

(result according to AC's notes, contested by the representatives of the UGS)

6) There will be no vote on point **d)**, dropped by SS with the agreement of the General Assembly.

7) Vote on point *e)* of the referred document : "*The administrators on the Executive Committee are elected by a secret ballot.*"

Vote: **13 Yes**, 2 No, 3 abstentions

8) Vote on point *f)* the referred document.

Vote on the change proposed in the first sentence : **18 Yes**

Vote on the change proposed in the second sentence: **18 Yes**

9) Vote on the Election procedure

Report on discussion prior to the vote:

BC > About the form of the ballot: shall we decide for an integral ballot or for one vote per position?

He also shared his doubts about the expression "*in good standing*" in point *i)* : are the representatives responsible for the fact that their organisation has not paid its fees in due time?

In point *j)* "*the President shall cast the deciding vote*": what if the President in function goes for a another round?

Vote:

For the integral ballot (1st proposal): 8 Yes

For a separate ballot for each position (2nd proposal): 6 Yes

BB and EV > They made a 3rd proposal: 1/ election of 5 people, 2/ 1 vote per position

JKK and OK > They made a 4th proposal: 1/ election of the President, 2/ election for the 4 other positions

AK > He made a 5th proposal: election of a team of 5 people united by a common program

Vote 1:

1st proposal :8 Yes

2nd proposal: 3 Yes

3rd proposal: 1 Yes

4th proposal: 4 yes

5th proposal: 2 Yes

Vote 2:

1st proposal : 9 Yes, 8 No, 1 abstention

4th proposal : 9 Yes, 5 No, 4 abstentions

Vote 3:

As the 4th proposal gets less NO's, Stanley Semerdjiev suggested that the General Assembly votes for the 4th proposal again: 13 Yes, 5 No

→ **The General Assembly approved the 4th proposal.**

10) On including "in good standing" in point i)

Vote: 6 Yes, **9 No**, 3 abstentions

11) On including "Candidates shall be elected by a simple majority in a secret ballot." in point j)

Vote: **16 Yes**, 2 abstentions

12) SS withdrew his proposal to modify the second sentence of point j).

13) BB proposed to organise a vote to raise the number of Board members from 5 to 7.

Vote: 2 Yes, **14 No**, 2 abstentions

Final decision: The General Assembly approved the modifications of Paragraph 11 in respect of the legal voting quorums. . Paragraph 11 is now as follows:

Article 11. Executive Committee: Composition and Generality

a) *The administration body of the Federation is the Executive Committee, composed of five administrators from five different states elected by the General Assembly among its members for a renewable period of two years. Among the administrators, the General Assembly shall elect a President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer.*

b) *Each candidate for the above mentioned offices must be proposed and seconded by a full member of the Federation.*

c) *Candidates shall be elected by a simple majority in a secret ballot. In the case of equal votes, a second vote shall be taken. The vote will be organised in two ballots, a first one to elect the President, a second one to elect the four other administrators (a Vice-President, a Treasurer and two Administrators).*

d) *Persons elected to the Executive Committee must resign if for any reason they are unable to meet their responsibilities or if they are no longer a member of an FSE guild.*

In case of vacancy of mandate, the Executive Committee may co-opt an administrator to take on the mandate of the administrator he replaces.

If the position of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President automatically takes on the mandate as acting President, until the following General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly.

e) *Derived from their functions the administrators will not undertake any personal obligations and they will be responsible for executing their mandate only.*

f) *The administrators may be recalled by the General Assembly at any time.*

To accomplish the daily management of the Federation, the Executive Committee may engage one Manager and additional staff concurrently defining his and their scope of authority. However, the scope of authority of the manager and staff may never exceed that of the Executive Committee or the General Assembly.

French translation

Article 11. Conseil d'Administration : Composition et Généralités

a) *L'organe administratif de la Fédération est le Conseil d'Administration, composé de cinq administrateurs choisis dans cinq Etats différents, élus parmi les représentants de ses membres, pour une période de deux ans renouvelable. Parmi les administrateurs, l'Assemblée générale élira un président, un vice-président et un trésorier.*

b) Chaque candidat à l'un des postes mentionnés ci-dessus devra être proposé et secondé par un représentant d'un membre de plein droit de la Fédération.

c) Les candidats seront élus à la majorité simple, à bulletin secret. Le vote sera organisé en deux bulletins, le premier pour élire le président, le second pour élire les quatre autres administrateurs (un vice-président, un trésorier et deux administrateurs). Dans le cas où aucune majorité ne ressortirait de ce vote, un deuxième vote sera organisé.

d) Les personnes élues au Conseil d'Administration devront démissionner si, pour quelque raison, elles étaient dans l'incapacité de remplir leurs fonctions ou bien si elles ne représentaient plus une organisation membre de la Fédération.

En cas de vacance d'un poste d'administrateur, le Conseil d'Administration pourra co-opter un administrateur pour remplir le mandat de l'administrateur qu'il remplace..

Si le poste de président venait à être vacant, le vice-président assumerait automatiquement la fonction de président, et ce jusqu'à la prochaine assemblée générale ou assemblée générale extraordinaire.

e) Concernant l'exécution de leurs fonctions, les administrateurs n'assumeront aucune obligation personnelle et seront responsables de la seule exécution de leurs mandats.

f) Les administrateurs peuvent être révoqués par l'Assemblée générale à tout moment.

Pour accomplir la gestion quotidienne de la Fédération, le conseil d'administration peut désigner un ou plusieurs délégué(s) en définissant, dans le même temps, l'étendue de ses/leurs pouvoirs. En toute hypothèse, celle-ci ne saurait excéder celle du conseil d'administration ou de l'assemblée générale.

6 / Election of the Board

The election was ruled by Bernie Corbett. It respected the changes to the statutes previously approved by the General Assembly. A committee of 3 volunteers distributed, collected and counted the ballots (BC, CA, AZ).

Election of the President

EI > Proposed Christina Kallas
SL > Seconded
CK > Accepted the proposal

Vote: **17 Yes**, 1 abstention

Election of the other members of the Board

1) Nomination of the Vice-President

SS > Proposed Sven Baldvinsson
EI > Seconded this proposal
SB > Accepted the proposal

SP > Proposed Elizabeth Verry
LD & PDG > Seconded this proposal
EV > Accepted the proposal

2) Nomination of the Treasurer

AK > Proposed Stanislav Semerdjiev
GV > Seconded the proposal
SS > Accepted the proposal

3) Nomination of Member 1

SS > Proposed David Kavanagh
CW > Seconded the proposal

DK > Accepted the proposal

A representative proposed Bernie Corbett, who declined the proposal.

EV > Proposed Catherine Way who declined the proposal.

4) Nomination of Member 2

AK > Proposed Gino Ventriglia

AOR > Seconded the proposal

GV > Accepted the proposal

EV > Proposed Eirik Ildahl who declined the proposal.

JKK and OK > Proposed Sanna Lithell who declined the proposal

Vote:

Vice-President

Sven Baldvinnson: **14 Yes**

Elizabeth Verry: 2 Yes

2 abstentions

Treasurer

Stanislav Semerdjiev: **18 Yes**

Member 1

David Kavanagh: **18 Yes**

Member 2

Gino Ventriglia: **18 Yes**

→ **The General Assembly elected a new Board for a term of 2 years, composed as follows:**

President:	Christina Kallas
Vice-President:	Sven Baldvinnson
Treasurer:	Stanislav Semerdjiev
Member 1:	David Kavanagh
Member 2:	Gino Ventriglia

7 / Member Guilds

Refer to doc: Members reports

In order not to repeat the contents of the member guilds reports, only additional points discussed during the meeting are reported in these minutes. Please carefully read the reports for details.

France

It is a hard time in France in the writing profession. Expressions of support (letters) from FSE helped a lot. BB encouraged other members to ask for this support when necessary.

Turkey

Refer to doc: Proposal Draft for FSE General Assembly

→ The General Assembly agreed to sign the letter proposed by SENDER. Christina Kallas will sign it on behalf of the AGM.

Spain

FAGA and ALMA have separated but continue to collaborate on several issues, for instance for the bargaining on minimal agreement and the rights on DVD. They compromise to negotiate with the producers via the unions, educate the screenwriters to go to unions. They think they work better since they have split.

Sweden

2 lawyers work in the Swedish guild to help the screenwriters negotiate the contracts with the producers. CA mentioned a visit to the UK guild and said how the interesting examples they witnessed there have influenced the demand on credits in their country. She encouraged the FSE member guilds to visit each other to gain from the others' best practices.

The minutes have been approved by (date / signature)

President:
Christina Kallas

Vice-President:
Sven Baldvinnson

Treasurer:
Stanislav Semerdjiev

Member 1:
David Kavanagh

Member 2:
Gino Ventriglia

(1) Statuts, Article 10 – Décision a) Les décisions sont prises à la majorité simple des voix des membres présents ou représentés, à l'exception des cas dans lesquels la loi ou les présents Statuts en décideraient autrement.

(2) Statuts, Article 10 – Décisions d) Les résolutions prises par l'Assemblée générale seront consignées dans un registre signé par le président. Le registre sera tenu à disposition de tous les membres sur leur demande.