



**FSE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
BRUSSELS, 22-23 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**MINUTES**

**All documents related the the FSE AGM 2015 are available here :**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ympddyhv8j52t/AADGb6tG7pGp2S2c9hg9ZIMCa?dl=0>

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**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS**

- The general assembly approved the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM (Warsaw, 3-4 Oct. 2014).
- The general assembly approved the minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly (Brussels, 27 March 2015)
- The general assembly elected a new Executive Committee.

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**COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RULING THE AGM 2015**

Sven Baldvinsson (President)  
Robert Taylor (Vice-President)  
Stanislav Semerdjiev (Treasurer)  
Carolin Otto (Member)  
Jean-André Yerlès (Member)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Robert Taylor (President)  
Carolin Otto (Vice-President)  
Monica Boracco (Treasurer)  
Jean-André Yerlès (Member)  
Maciej Karpinski (Member)

**Next elections: AGM 2017**

## MINUTES

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### Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of FSE (Warsaw, 3-4 October 2014) and Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly (Brussels, 27 March 2015)

→ On the proposal of Susin Lindblom, seconded by Monica Boracco, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The general assembly raised no other matter issuing from these minutes.

## ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

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The Activity Report 2015 is available here:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/ejtfbjgioe5cae/FSE%20AGM%202015\\_activity%20report.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ejtfbjgioe5cae/FSE%20AGM%202015_activity%20report.pdf?dl=0)

David Kavanagh presented the Activity Report of the year 2015.

It was decided at previous meetings to concentrate FSE actions on two priorities:

- 1) remuneration for our work online.
- 2) improve our contracts.

### **1) Remuneration for our work online**

FSE has endorsed SAA's proposal on equitable remuneration.

[http://www.scenaristes.org/pdfs/letter\\_new\\_MEPs%20saa\\_fera\\_fse.pdf](http://www.scenaristes.org/pdfs/letter_new_MEPs%20saa_fera_fse.pdf)

2) FSE and FERA worked together on a document on **better contracts**, included in the publication *Somebody Wrote It*.

<http://www.scenaristes.org/pdfs/somebody%20wrote%20it%20web.pdf>

David explained why and how this document was prepared with FERA and how the slogans were chosen. This document brings simplicity and clarity in FSE's policy goals.

The idea was to have SAA endorse this document, to balance FSE's support to their proposal on remuneration. Unfortunately the board of SAA could not support the document unanimously for a variety of reasons including because one of the CMOs (collective management organisations) also represents publishers.

3) **Working closely with other creators' organisations**. David reported on the new **"Authors' Group"**, composed of 5 creators' organisations (EWC, ECSA, FERA, FSE and EFJ). All these organisations share common issues and work fast together. This group believes in the possibility of achieving something efficiently for creators at European level on contracts. Main outcomes were a meeting with EU Parliament President Schultz and a letter to EU Commission President Juncker.

4) FSE has not managed to focus enough on **collective bargaining** in 2015 but will make it a priority

in 2016, in particular by applying to EU funds (DG Employment) together with UNI-Mei.

David Kavanagh concluded that it was a very good year for FSE but that the staff could not continue without more time and resources and without endangering their other professional responsibilities. Both David and Amélie are working more hours in 2015 but financial resources might not allow this to continue in 2016.

#### Comment from participants

Susin Lindblom commented on the fact that SAA did not endorse the document on “Better Contracts”. FSE had supported SAA's White Paper, in a very good way, and she regrets that SAA did not support FSE and FERA in return. She is on the board of CopySweden, member of SAA but gets very little information on SAA.

Carolin Otto said that Robert Staats, board member of SAA, is in an uncomfortable position regarding contracts, because VG Wort also represents publishers, though he wants to support us.

David Kavanagh said that Janine Lorente is no longer working at SACD (she now works for SGAE) and will probably no longer be the chair of SAA. Robert Staats might become the new chair. Another level of problem is that SAA continues to present itself as the organisation representing screenwriters and directors. And Cécile Despringre is always reluctant to raise the issue the contracts. However he thinks FSE should continue working with SAA along the same strategy, though it is not a totally reliable partner.

Bernie Corbett said that SAA's original proposal is ok for guilds and that it was ok to compromise, however he thinks that SAA does not stress the compromise with FSE and FERA. He also thinks that it is not fair that SAA does not support FSE's initiatives. Probably because better contracts for writers mean less work and less money for CMOs? “We need their money, but we need our independence”. FSE has to keep internally vigilant and might have to make hard choices in the future to keep its independence.

### **ASSESSMENT OF THE FSE AWARD**

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The president reminded the general assembly that FSE had been discussing the idea of an award for a long time.

Maciej Karpinski said that the event was very well organised and he thanked the Bavarian Representation for their premises and FSE for the hard and good work. However, he regretted the lack of participation of political representatives. How can you effectively bring politicians at these meetings, when they promise to come but do not. He said FSE should continue this project and why not move it to another venue, like representations of other countries. He offered his help should FSE consider organising the Award at the Polish representation in Brussels.

Gail Renard replied that the venue depends on what we want for the award. The Bavarian Representation is close to the European Parliament and FSE should continue with them, it is the best lobbying place. “Make it glamorous, red carpet”.

Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson said that the event will happen every two years, because of financial reasons and to not overlap with the world conference.

Vinicio Canton said that the event is not finished, but is a starting point. He suggested that we publish interviews with the screenwriters mentioned in the publication and the winner. He gave the example of the Italian guild : they made interviews of screenwriters at the Venice festival, which the media now use, simply because the Italian guild is the only one to make this.

David Kavanagh asked whether the Award's main purpose is as to raise the profile of screenwriters or to lobby at EU level? Maybe we should use the Award for what it is: raise the profile of screenwriters. He said that the lunch at the Parliament was very disappointing, because several assistants of MEPs who confirmed did not come, though FSE probably made a useful contact with Julie Ward and her assistants. He thinks the lunch at the Parliament is probably not worth the effort.

He thinks it is more difficult to assess the Award. There were only 2 or 3 MEPs and more or less 10 officials from the Commission, but FSE spread the information to some 3,000 good contacts. The Award was a good lobbying effort, consultancies present said it was a good audience. In other words, the lunch did not work well but the event was a brilliant and fantastic success.

Eva Spreitzhofer said that Adam Price made a very interesting speech and suggested that FSE gets his speech and use it in media. The Austrian representatives made a record of his speech and will transcript and translate it. Ulrike Schweiger said that it was important to use media contacts to have a better media coverage together. She also said that not having a jury was a wise decision to make the choice of the winner a political choice.

Adam Price's speech :

<http://www.scenaristes.org/pdfs/adamPriceSpeech2015.pdf>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq\\_ptU3sfbM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq_ptU3sfbM&feature=youtu.be)

Thomas MacLaughlin proposed to include the Award into a bigger glamorous event, in order to invite a glamorous actor. Gail Renard said she would propose some ideas to campaign better on internet. She invited all guilds to send information to national unions newspapers. Amélie Clément explained what FSE has achieved in terms of communication for the Award (journalists, twitter, facebook, visuals, photographer...). Teresa Rosendo said that ALMA would be ready to help make contacts with Spanish media. She also proposed that a famous actor reads a script of the winner.

Vinicio Canton proposed to discuss together a communication strategy. For example : publish the same article at the same moment, in several languages, all over Europe.

David Kavanagh said we should make a one or two page document (a shorter version of the “better contracts” document), each guild translates it in its own language and publishes it simultaneously. Amélie Clément said that pictures and communication material was already at disposal for guilds to communicate on the Award.

## PREPARATION OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

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Robert Taylor reported on the progress, in the absence of Jean-André Yerlès. He said that a lot of money needs to be raised. The main theme of the conference has already been planned. The Steering Committee will work to develop a detailed agenda.

Nikolaj Scherfig said how important it was to open the conference to an international audience. Robert Taylor told about this current concern and the rather unsuccessful attempts at getting people from other continents at the previous editions of the world conference. The best strategy would be to go to Latin America and other countries to make direct contacts but this strategy costs a lot.

Maciej Karpinski said that FSE should also make sure that Central and Eastern Europe comes. They make good films but the film communities are not organised. It is very difficult to find a partner and identify those who could represent screenwriters' groups. Stanislav Semerdjiev said that FSE cannot afford going to these countries to meet people and help them organise in unions. If people are interested to come, they will make the effort, like the Bulgarian guild.

ALMA and FAGA said they can help make contacts in Latin America. Nikolaj Scherfig said that he has lots of contacts in Brazil. Unlike Stanislav Semerdjiev, he thinks that we have to help countries organise themselves. We should be more pro-active, build up a strategy, get funding and hire someone to make these contacts. Gail Renard said that without money, FSE could make contacts through skype. Robert Taylor agreed that FSE should be more pro-active to get people from other parts of the world.

Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson concluded by saying that this strategy has been on the list of the board for long, but that the board has to prioritize.

David Kavanagh summarised the tasks of FSE related to this discussion:

1. Make the world conference more representative. Latin America, Asia... where there are efficient guilds. And overcome the language barrier with other guilds (like Japan).
2. FSE has to find more guilds from Central and Eastern countries, though it is a difficult task.

Stanislav Semerdjiev reminded that FSE invited some people from European and Eastern countries at the Athens and Barcelona conferences, these people came, they know who we are but nothing happened afterwards. He also said that it is not so easy to get funding for prospecting (long work to apply to EU grants). Stanislav and Maciej agreed that one of the main problems is that people in Central and Eastern European countries do not want to work together, to federate in an organisation, and they consider themselves more directors than writers.

Wilbirg Brainin-Donnenberg (Austria) said she can make contacts in festivals in Central Europe. Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson said that each representative of the guilds present in this room is a potential ambassador of FSE and can, at his/her own level, advocate FSE at film festivals and other events. Susin Lindblom suggested that we compare with other creators' organisations : do they have more members? Members in the Central and Eastern European countries? Are they active members?

Amélie Clément and David Kavanagh said that FSE had made some contacts in Czech Republic, Romania, Croatia, etc. and invited them to attend meetings, but without measurable results.

Camilla Alghren asked whether there were a Plan B in case the French guild does not succeed in raising money to organise the conference. Robert Taylor said that Spring 2016 was the deadline to make a decision.

David Kavanagh announced a Creators' Conference in Brussels in Spring 2016, co-organised by several authors' organisations and encouraged guilds to come.

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## EUROPEAN POLICIES

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David Kavanagh reported on what he understands is happening at European level. We invite you to (re)read his detailed document “Report on matters relating to the European Union and discussion of policy objectives”, which deals with :

- the Reda Report,
- Digital Single market,
- Competition enquiry,
- Review of the Cable and Satellite Directive,
- Audio visual media services directive,
- Remuneration study.

This document is available here :

[www.dropbox.com/s/jccxurxs8oga5kx/Report%20EU%20policies.pdf?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/s/jccxurxs8oga5kx/Report%20EU%20policies.pdf?dl=0)

The document concludes on “Implications for the future and for our strategy as outlined in our three year policy plan”. He also explained how lobbying works in Brussels, what for example Creativity Works! achieves with high professional skills and a lot of money.

Among recommendations, David Kavanagh proposed to update the study made in 2013 on screenwriters' revenues and extend this study among other groups of authors in Europe, in partnership with other authors' organisations (FERA, ECSA....).

(applause)

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS (MEMBERS REPORTS)

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The written reports are still available here :

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ba37nl7ibieyh3o/AACMNSXSlaseCwpM30r60qUHa?dl=0>

We encourage you to read them.

David Kavanagh read through the reports and selected a few items that he proposed for discussion:

- 1) New collectively bargained agreements (Danish Guild, German guild, Finnish guild) / buyouts.
- 2) Changes in copyright law at national level (Germany, Netherlands).
- 3) Relationships at national level with CMOs and transition of the EU directive into national law.

### **1) New collectively bargained agreements**

Jan Herchenröder (VDD) detailed the negotiations with broadcasters in Germany. Sami Keski-Vähälä (Sunklo) spoke about the negotiations with broadcasters in Finland. Pål Giørtz said a few words about the situation in Norway. Camilla Alghren told about a similar situation in radio in Sweden : Nordic countries confirm a worrying new push for buyouts, especially from public broadcasters. Susin Lindblom thinks it is important to raise politicians' awareness on this issue, even though some writers prefer to be paid this way. It is actually difficult for guilds to argue that this is not interesting on the long term. They also noticed the increasing arrogance of broadcasters, even public ones. Vinicio Canton told about the situation in Italy, where buyouts are the rule.

### **2) Changes in copyright law at national level**

Franky Ribben told about the outcomes of the campaign against UPC in the Netherlands and detailed the amendment of the Copyright Act and the Neighbouring Rights Act now into effect. Jan Herchenröder detailed the new version of the German contract law.

David Kavanagh said the producers use the concept of contractual freedom all the time. FSE should think of arguments to develop against contractual freedom to fight them back. For example: if producers are receiving money from the State, how can there be contractual freedom? He said he will try to raise this issue with the loose group of lawyers.

### **3) Relationships at national level with CMOs and transition of the EU directive into national law.**

Susin Linblom said that in Sweden the implementation of the directive is a long process, a long debate is going on.

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2014

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Stanislav Semerdjiev and Amélie Clément reported on financial matters. They confirmed the membership of three new partner members (SACD, SGAE, DAMA). They announced the high probability of a deficit at the end of 2015. They also presented the financial report of the FSE Award ceremony. Amélie Clément thanked the guilds which contributed to financing the award.

## ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD

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### Candidates

On day 1 of the AGM, Ulrike Schweiger said that she would like to know in advance who will step down and stand for the election of the new executive committee. She would like to hear why they want to stand and what they propose. A discussion followed on how to proceed, to comply with the statutes. Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson proposed the following motion:

- a round-table for people to say what they intend to do (but this is not compulsory).
- the candidates' speech is part of the election process.

Ulrike Schweiger proposed this motion. Vinicio Canton seconded. The motion was approved.

### Round-table:

- Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson (current President) and Stanislav Semerdjiev (current Treasurer) do not stand again for election.
- Robert Taylor and Carolin Otto stand for President.
- Jean-André Yerlès stands as board member for a second mandate.

Stanislav Semerdjiev made a short speech on the work achieved during his mandates. He was applauded by the assembly. Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson thanked him for being treasurer of the FSE.

### Elections (on day 2)

David Kavanagh explained the election procedure according to the statutes.

The assembly counted **18 votes**.

#### 1) Election of the President

Margret Ornlófsdóttir nominated Robert Taylor. Thomas MacLaughlin seconded. Vinicio Canton nominated Carolin Otto. Pål Giørtz seconded.

The vote was supervised by Camilla Alghren and Gail Renard.

Robert Taylor was elected President.

#### 2) Election of the Board members

- Camilla Alghren nominated Monica Boracco. Susanne Godske seconded.
- Ulrike Schweiger nominated Carolin Otto. Gail Renard seconded.
- Stanislav Semerdjiev nominated Maciej Karpinski. Thomas MacLaughlin seconded.
- Camilla Alghren nominated Jean-André Yerlès. Carolin Otto seconded him.



## **Composition of the new Executive Committee:**

### President:

Robert Taylor

### Board members:

Carolin Otto

Jean-André Yerlès

Monica Boracco

Maciej Karpinski

Amélie Clément will have these results published in the Moniteur Belge, to comply with Belgium law. Amélie

## **PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR**

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- 1) Proposal for a creators' conference in Brussels, co-organised by 5 creators' organisations: FERA, EFJ EWC, ECSA and FSE. David Kavanagh said how important it was for guilds to attend that meeting. It is the first time a conference is organised by creators themselves. It is an outcome of the continuing work of these 5 organisations.
- 2) Another work is to develop an answer to what the European Commission will publish.
- 3) FSE and UNI-MEI will apply together for a grant from DG Employment, for a project on collective bargaining starting at the end of 2016, if successful.

### Contributions from participants:

Maciej Karpinski proposed to contact the European Film Academy and invite them as observers. David Kavanagh said that there were too many directors in this organisation. Nikolaj Scherfig said he agreed with Maciej Karpinski. It is important to connect with strong organisations and the European Film Academy could be a good partner to open FSE to Central and Eastern European countries. David Kavanagh said he had been member of the European Film Academy and that FSE supported Christina Kallas' application, to put a writer on board. FSE and FERA should go together to Marion Doring to help.

Maciej Karpinski asked FSE to add an expansion plan to its agenda. His idea was supported by Nikolaj Scherfig, who suggested to make an application to Kopinor.

Gail Renard made proposals on lobbying and communication. She said she would send a note (which she did in the meantime). She mentioned the WGA's campaign on internet, with a series of short films. FSE needs to think how to attract MEPs' attention with original strong ideas.

Susanne Godske said there was no European organisation for playwrights and asked which guild organise playwrights. She asked how they could share information on that.

David Kavanagh proposed a motion to send letter to the Russian authorities on Oleg Stansov,

being imprisoned. Maciej Karpinski said that a lot had already been done. As a result Oleg Stansov got 10 years of imprisonment instead of 25. The Polish Filmmakers Association raised money for his family. Maciej said he will send contacts to FSE. David and Maciej will coordinate a motion. The general assembly agreed.

End of the meeting.