

15th Annual General Assembly (AGM) of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE)

20-21 October 2016
at La Maison des Auteurs of SACD, Paris

MINUTES

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SUMMARY OF MAIN DECISIONS

The general assembly :

1. unanimously approved the minutes of the annual general meeting 2015.
2. accepted a new member guild in Slovenia, DSR / screenwriters' section (DSR Senaristi).
3. unanimously approved the FSE Activity Report 2016.
4. unanimously approved the FSE financial report.
5. approved the proposal made by FSE member guild VDD to organise the 4th World Conference of Screenwriters in Berlin in 2018.
6. approved the project of organising the second edition of the FSE European Screenwriters Award in Brussels in 2017.
7. approved the idea of asking guilds to make an additional financial contribution in 2017 on a voluntary basis, either by a direct financial contribution to FSE or by a financial contribution to a specific project.
8. agreed to discuss a new membership fee scheme at the next AGM in 2017, upon proposal from the Executive Committee.

QUORUM

14 votes (including proxy to Sweden from Finland).
After admission of DSR, 15 votes.

DOCUMENTS

All the documents related to the AGM 2016 are still available in the drop box file :
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7vrp5a3g09t64cz/AABB9nj4I9WYYs2_WnV69zZOa?dl=0

1. STATUTORY MATTERS

President Robert Taylor welcomed all the participants and proposed a round-table. Several participants were attending a FSE meeting for the first time (from Belgium, Slovenia, Norway).

a) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Robert Taylor proposed a change in the agenda : split into small groups to look for ideas, brainstorm on the future of FSE. The change was unanimously approved.

b) VOTE ON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Proposer : Thomas McLaughlin - Seconder : Maciej Karpinski.
The general assembly unanimously approved the minutes of the AGM 2015.

c) NEW FSE MEMBERS

FSE received the application of DSR Scenaristi in Slovenia, the new screenwriters' section of DSR, the Directors' Guild. The application was presented by Matevž Luzar, President of DSR Scenaristi and Klemen Dvornik, President of DSR. (www.dsr.si/english). They answered a few questions :

Maciej Karpinski (Poland) raised a « delicate matter » : there is a link between screenwriters and directors in the same organisation. What is the extent of independence of the screenwriters' group ? Matevž Luzar and Klemen Dvornik replied that the same question had been raised at DSR. However, Slovenia is a small country, with not many professional screenwriters and directors and many professionals being at the same time screenwriters and directors. They have to work together to build the guild, then later they may be in a position to decide whether they separate or continue to work together.

Sarah Schenkel (Belgium FR) : how do you manage conflicts? By example how do you split the rights ? Matevž and Klemen answered that currently screenwriters and directors have a very good relationship and stand together against producers.

Gail Renard (UK): Are you sure directors will not take over (the guild is composed of directors (77) and writers (26 – expectation 40)? Klemen explained that Slovenia was ruled by socialism, with a huge union gathering filmmakers, artists, filmworkers... The creative industries decided to get

organised in a guild's way, by groups of professionals. They had to fight together last year against some legislation and agreed that they need an umbrella organisation. In this process of making a filmmakers union, all guilds will become members, there's a place for writers and directors and film composers.

Slovenian representatives left the room to allow FSE member guilds discuss the application.

THE VOTE on the admission of DSR as FSE Full Member

Proposer : Robert Taylor. Secunder Jan Herchenröder (Germany)

13 YES, 1 NO, 0 abstention

> DSR Slovenia has officially become a member guild of FSE and can vote on the next decisions.

Nikolaj Scherfig (Denmark) said how important it is for FSE to help countries organise and therefore welcome new guilds. **FSE should be more pro-active in creating guilds.** He encouraged the Slovenians to spread the word each time they can. Matevz said he will speak to guilds of Croatia and Serbia.

Robert Taylor introduced two guests from South Africa to talk about the screenwriters' guild of their country. They detailed their fight for collective bargaining - prevented by law for freelancers - as well as their project to establish an African writers' federation.

More info : WGSA <https://writersguildsa.org/who-we-are/>

2. REPORT ON EU COPYRIGHT PROPOSAL

David Kavanagh presented his report on EU policies, « FAIR REMUNERATION IN CONTRACTS OF CREATORS AND PERFORMERS, Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the proposed Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market »

The report is available here :

https://www.dropbox.com/s/37zi8ue14m4cyjp/05_Report%20on%20EU%20legislation.pdf?dl=0

Robert Taylor introduced Pauline Durand-Vialle, Déléguée Générale of FERA who had kindly agreed to contribute to our discussion of this issue.

a) THE TRANSPARENCY TRIANGLE

Ellie Peers (UK) asked what was the deadline of approval of the directive : end of 2017 – mid 2018, then 12 months to transpose the directive into national law. The proposal will go through the European Parliament, then to the Council. In practice the Council has already started to work on it. Susin Lindblom (Sweden) said that Swedish MEPs were leaving this transparency part of the directive aside and were interested in other parts of the package. Only authors want to put light on these articles 14-15 and 16. Jan Herchenröder (Germany) said that a contract law at EU level would be very helpful for every country. He congratulated FSE for the work done. He told about the experience in Germany of an authors' group. In the lobbying process, it is important to be federated between authors but screenwriters must continue to be visible on their own. Josep Gatel said that Spanish law includes the principal of transparency triangle but that in fact nobody uses that. Authors have to find a way to make it compulsory.

David Kavanagh said that the process chosen by the Authors' Group is go to MEPs and ask them to endorse

the amendments proposed by the Authors' Group.

Pauline Durand-Viale (FERA) said that authors defend the transparency triangle but want to propose to modify some points to make it more real. She insisted on the strong point which Authors have: cultural diversity and creativity.

The discussion went through each of the three paragraphs.

b) WHO TO LOBBY

After lunch, David Kavanagh explained more about the directive and the legislative process. He proposed that FSE gives guilds the names of the MEPs that the Authors' Group wants to approach and will ask guilds to approach them. He said that the Authors' Group made the mistake to concentrate on the European Parliament rather than on the European Council.

He raised this question: shall FSE do this campaign under FSE flag or within the Authors' Group? In many member states there are already authors' groups to consult at national level and coordinate. He asked whether guilds would agree to collaborate: do they have time, resources, staff and budget? How can we do this work in the next year? He reminded our power: we are the authors, the creators. It is very important that guilds show their MEPs that they are interested in the work MEPs do in Brussels.

The general assembly concluded that FSE and member guilds should :

- lobby at national level and at European level.
- lobby as FSE, because FSE has its own interest, and with the Authors' Group. FSE and FERA should go on with this collaboration.

Address MEPs with different approaches :

- with Left people : insist on fairness, remuneration
- with Right people : insist on entrepreneurship, etc...

3. FSE REPORTS

a) VOTE ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT (YEAR 2016)

Amélie Clément presented the activity report of FSE for the year 2016. The report is available here : https://www.dropbox.com/s/5tgp6cvvr8s3b47/06_FSE%20activity%20report%202016%20DEF.pdf?dl=0

The vote was proposed by Nikolaj Scherfig (Denmark) and seconded by Pontus Lenke (Sweden). The Activity Report 2016 was unanimously approved.

b) FSE FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

Amélie Clément presented the balance sheet and financial results for the period January 2015 - June 2016 (intermediary year to fit to the new financial calendar July-June). The documents are available here : <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7lx6rsqqwxhjemj/AADyLXgd3eSrfAQ5YSHlr19ma?dl=0>

Robert Taylor commented on the financial results. The report shows a deficit which is significant for our organisation. He thanked the staff for the huge amount of work, professionalism and commitment. He said he found it embarrassing to pay them so little.

Ellie Peers (UK) proposed to raise the membership fees. Robert confirmed that there had not been any increase for several years and that the board of FSE will prepare a proposal for next year. He said that FSE needs to find also other sources of income. David Kavanagh said that FSE cannot

manage a deficit any longer but at the same time it is the moment to do more work. In other words, FSE is facing a crisis.

Gail Renard said that FSE is moving mountains but that there are very few ways an organisation like FSE can raise money. There are a few short term things to do: raising membership ; exceptional contribution (WGGB gave 5000 euros as a very long term loan; Poland, with 98 members - just below the limit of 100, decided to raise their fee voluntarily from 800 to 1200 euros.).

Maciej Karpinski said that the strength of any organisation is its members. Members can contribute to functioning by raising their fees but also by thinking of activities which each country could organise locally under the flagship of FSE. Teresa de Rosendo (Spain) asked if guilds could give « staff ».

Robert Taylor said that the general assembly will be able to continue this conversation in small groups later. Carolin Otto concluded by sharing her feelings as a board member of FSE : sometimes you feel « abandoned » by member guilds. She said she hopes that next year will bring more initiatives from guilds. She gave the example of the FSE Award and asked everybody to join and give time, money and energy.

Vote on the financial results

Proposer : Gail Renard - Seconder : Thomas McLaughlin

The financial accounts were approved unanimously.

4. WORLD CONFERENCE OF SCREENWRITERS

a) Cancellation of WCOS in Paris

The Nordic Guilds sent a letter to FSE following the late cancellation of the world conference in Paris. Jean-André Yerlès (France), who was involved in this project, first became aware of that letter at the annual general assembly and decided to step down from his position as FSE board member.

Nikolaj Scherfig explained that the Scandinavian guilds discussed at their annual meeting their strong disappointment following the last minute cancellation of the world conference, as well as the lack of information on the progress. The world conference in Warsaw in 2014 had been a huge success and it was obvious that this was going to continue. Denmark wanted to send a big delegation and participate to the costs. Nordic guilds could not understand why it could not happen and decided to write that letter. They think they deserve the right to know what happened and learn from that experience to make sure it does not happen in the future, because this conference is very important and must continue. Pia Gradvall (Sweden) said that with this letter Nordic guilds wanted to share their collective concern for the future of the conference. Margret Ornlófsdóttir regrets that the letter had been interpreted as being offensive though that was not its purpose. They wanted to raise a discussion and share their concerns for the future of the world conference.

David Kavanagh asked how did FSE arrive at that situation. The difficulty is that we ask a guild to find all the money and then we attend. The problem is that we have arrived by accident at a structural situation where everything relies on one guild. And any guild can fail, and can fail at the very end. How can we avoid that situation in the future ?

Maciej Kaprinski said that it is a matter of responsibility. When Poland offered to organise the conference in Warsaw, they took responsibility upon themselves. If a guild accepts this responsibility, it must be 100%.

Robert Taylor said that the French made everything they could to make it work but it happened to be impossible in the circumstances which were beyond the control of the organisers. It was not the fault of La Guilde or any of the individuals who had tried so hard to make it happen. No one could have done more.

The meeting agreed that this was correct and it was emphasised, through contributions from many

members, that La Guilde should not feel under any responsibility.

Several proposals were made :

- Constant monitoring by a sub-committee
- Establish a contract from the very beginning with a clear share of responsibilities
- A lot more communication
- Why not several guilds hosting wcos together?

b) WCOS in Berlin in 2018

The German guild offered to try to welcome the conference.

The general assembly approved the proposal made by FSE member guild VDD to try to organise the 4th World Conference of Screenwriters in Berlin in 2018.

5. THE FUTURE OF FSE

a) BRAINSTORMING IN SMALL GROUPS

Monica Boracco invited participants to form four groups to brainstorm over several questions.

- **What are the most important things for FSE at the moment?**
- **What should be done in the future?**
- **What can we do better?**
- **How to improve finances?**

The summary of these discussions is available in the document « FSE AGM 2016 brainstorming ». This document also explains how FSE proposes to tackle the proposals made by the FSE member guilds. You can find it here :

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z0zc6h1g8jsd1fb/FSE%20AGM%202016%20brainstorming.pdf?dl=0>

b) ACTIVITY PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2017

Amélie presented the Activity Plan 2017. The document is available here :

https://www.dropbox.com/s/o20vg9cijsrbhos/10_FSE%20AGM%20plans%20for%202017.pdf?dl=0

c) ON CREDITS

At the request of ALMA, supported by Writers Guild Italia, FSE put the issue of credits on the agenda for an initial discussion to see whether there is interest in taking the matter further. The participants exchanged information and proposals and asked FSE to do some more work on this.

6. MEMBERS' REPORTS

All the reports provided by guilds for the year 2016 are available here :

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/me3nw2dm9cfkdzy/AAAC0U1BnfCWH8jKuZgsq9nia?dl=0>