

## FAGA

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The **Foro de Asociaciones de Guionistas Audiovisuales** is a nonprofit organization founded in 2007. Its main objective is the **coordination and cooperation of professional associations of Spain to defend the professional, labor, socioeconomic, and author rights of the screenwriters both of cinema and television, nationally and in Europe.**

Works to represent the general interests of the profession, enhance the image of the writer as creator. To establish channels of communication within the sector. To do so is involved in strategic meetings and negotiations, promotes studies on topics of interest to the writer, organizes activities, establishing links with European professional associations. FAGA also collects and disseminates information of interest to the sector.

It currently comprises the following four professional screenwriters guilds: **A.GA.G** – Asociación de Galega de Guionistas with 43 members, **EDAV** – Escriptors de l'Audiovisual Valencià with 86 members; **EHGEP** - Euskal Herriko Gidoigileen Elkarte Professional with 70 members, **GAC – SIGC** Guionistes Associats de Catalunya-Sindicat de Guionistes de Catalunya with 221 members.

The interests of **420 scriptwriters** are represented under its umbrella, a fact which makes it the organisation with the greatest level of representation for the profession in Spain.

FAGA favors as far as possible cooperation with other organizations, and Europe. The exchange of information should be the best strategy for joining the collective.

## 2010 Report

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FAGA works around two axes: the improvement of the conditions of professional writers and the union of the collective, both at national and European level.

In 2010 we've been actively involved in the following negotiations and activities:

### **1. Accord of Understanding between the federations of producers FAPAE and PROA, and FAGA, ALMA**

During 2009 we promoted the signing of an *Accord of Understanding* with aim was to establish a basic framework for producers and freelance screenwriters. At first we received the support of the ICAA's director Ignasi Guardans. He encouraged the process, assisted at the meetings and even wrote himself a draft of the accord based in our demands. Unfortunately, producers, specially PROA, disagreed with its content and withdrew from the negotiations. We spent the first half of last year trying to convince ICAA to put pressure on producers to reestablish the dialogue; unfortunately without success.

*Even though Accord of Understanding is still blocked, FAGA has decided to publish Guardans' version with a prologue explaining the process in our website and the ones of our associations.*

## 2. Consult on Intellectual Property Law

On summer 2009 FAGA was consulted about an eventual reform of the Intellectual Property Law. We responded at a questionnaire from a Special Subcommission specifically created for it. Half a year later, we learnt by the press about meetings taking place between some members of the Subcommission and some chosen institutions among the ones that asked this questionnaire. As screenwriters weren't invited to take part of them, FAGA decided to meet separately with some of the politicians who were members of the Subcommission, in order to expose them our 10 points to be considered in a Property Law reform. We prepared this document together with our lawyer Carlota Planas. We met with Montse Surroca (CIU), Joan Tardà (ERC), Àlex Sáez (PSC) and with the deputy and spokesman of the Commission of Culture Mr. Torres Mora. All of them showed their interest but at the same time, they agreed in that the Government wasn't ready to reform the LPI (Ley de Propiedad Intelectual) during this mandate.

*Instead of facing the surely complex reform of the Spanish Property Law, the Spanish Government encouraged the L.E.S., Ley de Economía Sostenible, widely known as "Ley Sinde", which aim is to defend the authors rights in the internet by closing the illegal webs of audiovisual contents. This law has been recently approved (february 2011).*

## 3. Reports of scriptwriters' situation and demands, for PECA – Platform for a Statute for the Author and Artist.

On april 2010, PECA - Plataforma para el Estatuto del Creador y Artista met in Madrid. PECA regroups guilds and associations of authors from different sectors (writers, visual artists, actors, etc) with the aim of promoting the creation of an Statute for the Author and Artist by the Spanish Ministry of Labour. As a result of this meeting we wrote two reports each professional guild / association: one describing our current situation and a second containing a list of demands. Both included issues as for example contracts, social security system, taxes or continuing training.

*FAGA got in contact with them by the end of the year, in order to collaborate in the process of collecting the reports and writing a unique document with both the global requests and peculiarities of each profession. As there is a lot of associations and guilds involved, we still in this slow procedure right now.*

## 4. I Meeting of Spanish Scriptwriters. Valencia / 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> october 2010.

Thanks to the initiative of EDAV-Escriptors de l'Audiovisual Valencià, in collaboration with FAGA and ALMA, and the support of the FSE, the First Meeting of Spanish Writers was held in Spain, october 2010.

The meeting gathered a group of renowned national and international experts and professionals who, through specific presentations and round tables, discussed about the most pressing issues currently affecting the professional practice of the cinema, television and new media writers.

The program of this First Meeting focused on this three main areas:

1. *Challenges and options for regulation and management of copyright in the Internet age*
2. *New profiles of the profession of writer: from the executive production to the audio-visual collaborative one*
3. *Current trends in demand for content and its impact on the practice of the screenwriter*



Over 200 scriptwriters and other professionals concerned attended Valencia, as for example Ignasi Guardans, director of the ICAA (Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales) – Ministry of Culture; Juan Nebreda and Pablo Hernández, two of the heads of Spanish collecting society SGAE; José Luís Domínguez from DAMA, Cécile Desprings, executive director of SAA – Society of Audiovisual Authors, or renowned scriptwriters from cinema and TV such as Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón, Rodolfo Sirera, Joan Grau, Iván Escobar, Lluís Arcarazo or Chon González.

*We already met with The Minister of Culture, Mrs. Ángeles González-Sinde and also with head of the ICAA Carlos Cuadros to present the conclusions of the I Meeting and discuss the strategies to work on each point, and then also with collective societies SGAE and DAMA, with the same objective. We also aim to organize the II Meeting of Spanish Scriptwriters again this year, but this time in Madrid.*

+ info: <http://encuentroguionistas.wordpress.com/>

## 5. Other actions

FAGA ended and published in its website the report *ESTUDIO EUROPA 1: ALEMANIA*, made in collaboration with VDD-Verband Deutscher Drehbuchautoren e.V. and her manager Katharina Uppenbrink. This report was made to analyze some basic aspects of the professional status of the German scriptwriter.

+ info: <http://www.fagaweb.org/?lg=2&id=4&nid=15>

FAGA sent his president Henrique Rivadulla as a representative to the **II Meeting of Comillas**, for TV scriptwriters, organized by SGAE and in which scriptwriters and producers participated.

FAGA also responded to the **Ministry of Culture** requests to make observations to the Cinema Law and then to a questionnaire on International Cultural Action.

We also implemented our relations with **Portuguese writers APAD and Balearic ACIB**. We met in June in Barcelona during one of our board meetings to get to know better and look if there were aspects where we could work together. We kept contact since then and exchange documents of our interest, even if we've seen that at the moment, there's no need of any kind of legal fusion.

We kept updated our **website** via the news section, in order to communicate both FAGA's work, and the achievements, workshops and whatever that our associations and guilds made. We also started to send regularly short news via e-mail to our mailing.

## 6. As members of the FSE

FAGA has participated in the **GA 2010 - Berlin** by sending both our representative Juanjo Moscardó and manager Marta Raventós.

We answered to the **questionnaire on remuneration** sent by the FSE, gave our **support to Christina Kallas'** candidature for the European Film Academy Board and collaborate **with the newsletter** by sending some news.