



REPORT 2012-2013

ASA is the Belgian Scriptwriters association for the French speaking part of Belgium.

This report will only concentrate on two main facts.

- After the support of our Ministry of Culture for TV scripts through writing grants in 2011 and 2012, our National Television (RTBF) has launched a call for proposals regarding Tv series of 10 episodes of 52 minutes. RTBF received 160 projects of series. They are now in the middle of the process of selection. They should select 10 projects and offers those projects around 48.000 Euros for writing the Bible and the first episode. Then, they will select 4 projects among the ten and those projects will be produced in 2014. We are glad that RTBF finally understood the importance for a National television to produce specific fiction contents, even if the budget of the series is very low (around 4.000 Euros per minute). Fortunately, the scriptwriters will receive good money for writing (around 20.000 euros per episode). Our main hope is that the private television (RTL-TVI) will follow RTBF in the next years and will also produce series.
- This year, the Federal Minister of Economy wanted to codify the Author rights in an economical Codex which was surprising for us as we think Author Rights should be related to Culture and not Economy. Our main concerns regarding this law project are:
 - o Our Authors' societies would no longer be responsible for setting the tariffs for the use of our works. But the government will do so, through a regulator. Therefore, we think they will lower the tariffs.
 - o The rights that we cannot allow to one specific person by lake of information may be seized by the government instead of being spread between our Authors.
 - o The Authors' societies will have to finance the regulator
 - o The presumption of transfer of our rights in the contract between authors and producers is no longer guaranteed. Therefore, our Authors' societies would have difficulties to prove that they own the rights of the Author to negotiate with Cable companies for example.