



## Report of the Bulgarian Association of the Film, Television and Radio Scriptwriters - BAFTRS

08<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018

*Dear Mr Robert Taylor, President of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe, I would like to bring to your attention the Report of the activities of the Bulgarian Association of the Film, Television and Radio Scriptwriters – BAFTRS for 2018.*

### 1. Membership

In 2017 BAFTRS accepted 4 new members in the Association all of which prominent TV screenwriters with a lot of experience and TV-series projects. As of today, the Association amounts to 35 registered professional scriptwriters. 4 screenwriters were removed from membership for consistently not paying the membership fee.

### 2. Activities in 2018

On its General Assembly in May 2018 this year an important step towards improving screenwriters' rights in Bulgaria has been made. The Bulgarian Society for collective management of authors' and producers' rights in audiovisual works – *Filmautor* – presented to the General Assembly suggestions for creating a template contract between screenwriters and producers with specific contractual rules concerning author's rights and remunerations with the goal of better protecting screenwriter's rights. A legal workgroup was formed by representatives of BAFTRS that commented the suggested template and several suggestions were made to Filmautor to improve the contractual terms. Filmautor recognizes the need to improve contractual terms for screenwriters in Bulgaria and they offered their assistance in taking concrete actions in improving the general situation in the bargaining process between screenwriters and producers which is a significant step towards creating a better environment for our members.

The National Film Fund was facing difficulties this year with financing of approved film projects due to the need of changes in the existing Law for Film Industry that needed to be performed. This month the Parliament approved the suggested changes in The Law for Film Industry in compliance to the European Law and Directives, Regulation (EU) N 1407/2013 and Regulation (EU) N 651/2014 which will make possible the financing of Bulgarian films and will improve the general financing mechanism for funding.

BAFTRS has provided several of our members with a free legal advice on producers' contracts and our members recognize their membership as significant in improving their work conditions as screenwriters.

Best regards,

Stanislav Semerdjiev, President BAFTRS