

FSE

**FEDERATION OF
SCREENWRITERS
IN EUROPE**

**The voice
of Europe's
screenwriters**



FSE OFFICE NEWS
FEBRUARY 2017

FSE BOARD MEETING IN MADRID

On 12, 13 and 14 January 2017 the board and staff of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe travelled to Madrid upon the invitation of ALMA, since long FSE member guild.

We experienced the generous hospitality and great availability from our Madrilene friends, so our first words go to Teresa de Rosendo, Josep Gatell, Curro Royo, very active board members of ALMA, as well as to Ana Javierre, coordinator of ALMA : thank you, thank you for committing ALMA to offering FSE an opportunity to meet national members through interesting meetings and warm social events.

Our thanks naturally also go to ALMA chairwoman Ángela Armero, to ALMA' lawyer Tomas Roson and to the other board members of ALMA we have met during the meetings. We hope they will forgive us for not naming them all here.

We shared nice informal moments of conviviality but mostly we had several very interesting meetings, in a frank, constructive and inspiring spirit.

FSE delegation was composed of Robert Taylor, Carolin Otto, Marie Roussin, Maciej Karpinski, Amélie Clément and David Kavanagh. Unfortunately Monica Boracco could not travel to Madrid on these dates.

Toni Cama, representative of FAGA, the other Spanish FSE member guilds, joined most of the meetings.

ALMA BOARD -----

On Thursday 12th January in the morning we met the board of ALMA in the premises of ALMA, on busy and central Gran Via. We had a long and constructive discussion on several issues : ALMA's campaign on competition

law (preventing freelancers to negotiate collectively agreements) ; lack of communication between FSE and its member guilds and between FSE and its partner members and the necessity to coordinate information between FSE, ALMA and FAGA and the Spanish partner members SGAE and DAMA (Spanish collective management organisations). We discussed solutions to improve the situation (these proposals will be detailed in a work plan we are going to send you soon). ALMA also questioned the impact of partner members (and of course their financial contribution) on the progress of FSE lobbying and consequently on the policy goals of FSE. Robert and David acknowledged that FSE had not yet reached the project presented to partner members (a full time office in Brussels for lobbying) but detailed the progress, achievements and collaborations going on in Brussels.

At lunch time ALMA invited us to a delicious restaurant near the premises of SGAE. Janine Lorente and Fabia Buenaventura of SGAE joined us for lunch.

SGAE -----

In the afternoon a smaller group met Fabia Buenaventura, in charge of audiovisual at SGAE. We discussed EU policies from both points of view ; how to increase our collaboration on a common agenda for lobbying and how to improve exchange of information. We also met Ivan Garcia Pelayo, representing both SGAE and W&DW (Writers and Directors Worldwide).

DAMA -----

We also met Meritxell Closa and Victor Romano at DAMA, where we exchanged more or less on the same issues : what's going on at European level, what FSE has achieved thanks to the support of partner members, the

recent development of DAMA and wishes for a better collaboration.

We agreed with both CMOs that FSE will invite SGAE and DAMA to remain partner members for another three-year period and ALMA and FAGA committed to support these applications.

ALMA PANEL DISCUSSION -----

On Thursday evening ALMA proposed a panel discussion in the conference room of the Spanish Cinema Academy to which Spanish professional screenwriters, politicians and journalists had been invited. The audience was welcomed by Luis Cueto, General Coordinator of the Mayor's Office of Madrid. David presented FSE and the situation regarding the European Copyright Law. Then Josep moderated a discussion on remuneration in various countries. Carolin (Germany), Marie (France), David (Ireland), Robert (UK), Maciej (Poland) and Vinicio (Italy) spoke about better contracts, collective bargaining, competition law, minimum rates... the conclusion was that job insecurity for writers was shared by most European countries and that one essential way to address the situation was for writers to join guilds, to unite, to get organised...

You can read a very detailed report of the discussions in Spanish [here](https://bloguionistas.wordpress.com) (scroll down) : <https://bloguionistas.wordpress.com>

as well as a few articles [here](http://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20170105/413124763038/guionistas-europeos-se-reuniran-en-madrid-por-la-nueva-directiva-de-copyright.html):

<http://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20170105/413124763038/guionistas-europeos-se-reuniran-en-madrid-por-la-nueva-directiva-de-copyright.html>

and [here](http://www.lainformacion.com/arte-cultura-y-espectaculos/cine/GUIONISTAS-REUNEN-MADRID-DIRECTIVA-COPYRIGHT_0_989601160.html) : http://www.lainformacion.com/arte-cultura-y-espectaculos/cine/GUIONISTAS-REUNEN-MADRID-DIRECTIVA-COPYRIGHT_0_989601160.html

The panel discussion was followed by a cosy cocktail.

FSE BOARD MEETING -----

FSE held its board meeting on Friday and Saturday morning, for the first time with Marie Roussin, who had been co-opted after the resignation of Jean-André Yerlès. We will document this meeting later with the minutes of the discussions, a new work plan and soon a new letter from president Robert Taylor.

Meanwhile, ALMA was holding a master class with John August. Unfortunately we could not join either the master class nor the lunch.

You can find an interview of John August in Spanish [here](https://bloguionistas.wordpress.com) : <https://bloguionistas.wordpress.com> - scroll down ; as well as here: <http://www.sindicatoalma.es/articles/2017/01/19/john-august-%E2%80%9Cse-necesita-un-colectivo-de-guionistas-fuerte-para-lograr-buenos>

We do remain at your entire disposal to answer any question on this brief report of our meetings in Madrid.

Best regards,

Amélie Clément and David Kavanagh

For your information, ALMA has translated FSE's study on remuneration in Spanish :

http://www.sindicatoalma.es/sites/default/files/FSEleaflet_finalprint-Id.pdf

well as the most recent FSE/FERA publication on [Better contracts](http://www.sindicatoalma.es/sites/default/files/BETTER%20CONTRACTS%20SPANISH-definitivo.pdf) :

<http://www.sindicatoalma.es/sites/default/files/BETTER%20CONTRACTS%20SPANISH-definitivo.pdf>

