

Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE)
Meeting of the Executive Committee (“board meeting”)
Brussels, 6 December 2018

Minutes

Were present

BOARD

Maciej Karpinski, board member
Alexandre Manneville, Treasurer
Nikolaj Scherfig, board member
Robert Taylor, President
Vincent Vanneste, observer

STAFF

Amélie Clément, FSE manager
David Kavanagh, Executive Officer

Excused

Carolin Otto, Vice-President

LEGAL MATTERS

Minutes of the previous board meeting

Ref. Fontainebeau, France, 27 June 2018
> The board unanimously approved the minutes.

Co-option of two board members

Amélie and David will finalize the new version of the paragraph “IV. ADMINISTRATION / Paragraph 10 — Executive Committee : Composition and Generality” of the statutes, approved by the annual general assembly in Berlin on 12-13 October 2018. Amélie will deal with the publication in the Moniteur Belge.

The board proposed Vincent Vanneste (Belgium) and Ana Pineda (Spain), who have both since the meeting formally accepted to be co-opted and act as board members until the election at the annual general assembly in 2019, when they will choose or not to stand for election.

Other items

David will prepare a document on harassment, following the approval of the motion on this issue adopted at the previous AGM.

David and Amélie will propose a calendar of events to help board members plan their travels and find common dates for the next board meetings.

Amélie will send to the Belgian authorities the financial results approved by the general assembly at the FSE AGM 2018.

Organisation of the next board meetings: during one day only, with the possibility to arrive the evening before and leave either after the meeting or on the next morning (one or two nights hotel).

FSE AWARD : What is the real value of the FSE Award?

Following the assessment of the two previous editions of the FSE Award, board and staff discussed the relevance of organising a third edition in Brussels, considering :

- the fragile balance between the considerable effort to raise money to finance the event, the high expectation of the guilds in terms of quality (better press coverage, prestigious guests, glamour, etc.), the skills required to organise a high profile ceremony and the other priorities of FSE versus staff workload;
- the disappointing results in terms of lobbying the European institutions;
- the calendar of the European Union, in particular of the adoption and implementation of the Copyright Directive.

Nikolaj proposed to link the award to the world conference :

- better press and media coverage;
- great international attendance;
- expertise to identify best writers to choose a winner;
- organisation of the award included in the organisation of the conference;
- more attractive for the winner to come at WCOS.

Nikolaj and Maciej were in favour of organising the FSE Award each year to reflect the rise in production. One year in Brussels or somewhere else, one year during the world conference. Robert and David agreed on the logic but pointed out the reasons why it is too heavy for FSE to organise the award in Brussels. Nikolaj suggested then not to emphasize on the organisation of a big and expensive ceremony but to use social media as the venue of the award to get greater exposure. Robert replied that the idea of having the FSE Award each year is a great idea but that the lack of resources does not allow this at the moment. However everybody agreed on the need to improve the communication strategy.

Downsides

- If the FSE Award is organised during the world conference, on which ground will FSE fundraise CMOs in 2019? Amélie answered that part of what FSE does can be presented to CMOs as projects to support. Moreover it corresponds to the joint FERA/FSE request to SAA for structural funding.
- The next world conference in is Copenhagen. But what is the logic of having a European award during a world conference happening outside of Europe?

Decisions

- FSE will not organise the next FSE Award in Brussels in 2019.
- FSE will contact the Dutch guild to propose them to host the FSE annual general assembly in 2019. If not, the AGM will be organised in Brussels. If the Dutch are ok FSE will also ask them if they are willing to organise the FSE Award.
- Nikolaj will propose the Danish guild to include the organisation of the FSE Award in their project for WCOS 2020.
- The board of FSE will continue to be the steering committee of the FSE Award (in particular for the choice of winner).
- FSE will submit the proposal to organise the FSE Award during WCOS to IAWG.

FUNDING 2019

CMOs

Robert and David made a short report on the joint SAA/FERA/FSE meeting in Brussels on 26 November. On the occasion of this meeting with the board of SAA, FERA and FSE made a joint request for money for a two year period (implementation of the Copyright Directive) : 100,000 euros each (through a “super fee” to each CMO and coordination with the guilds). The three organisations agreed on a working party/sub-committee to discuss funding with two persons of each group. SAA will be represented by Cécile Despringre and Fabia Buenaventura (SGAE); FSE by David Kavanagh and Robert Taylor; FERA by Pauline Durand-Vialle and most probably Dan Clifton. A meeting will be organised early 2019.

American guilds

FERA and FSE are exploring another possibility. They consider asking the American guilds of writers and directors West once the Copyright Directive is passed. They will ask the American guilds to help European guilds to establish collective bargaining bases in Europe with financial support.

Vincent raised worries about what the American guilds would want in return and how this would affect the countries where the system of droits d'auteur applies (France, Belgium...).

STAFF & OFFICE

ref. Structural budget 2019

An office in Brussels

The board reasserted the goal of having a full time office in Brussels as soon as the financial situation allows it. Vincent confirmed that the Maison des Auteurs would be ready to put an office at disposal to FSE. The board is in favour of a stronger collaboration with FERA (office, translation costs, legal advice...).

Staff

Robert presented the situation of David and Amélie as freelancers since many years and proposed some changes in 2019. Amélie will be employed by FSE (long-term part-time contract – equivalent working time as now; French working law). The estimated annual cost for FSE is 36,000 euros.

The board approved this proposal. Amélie will launch the administrative procedure with the French administration and will draft a contract (with the ad hoc services of a professional company).

David is ready to do more hours after June (he will retire from the WGI) providing the budget allows it. He will continue to work freelance.

EUROPEAN POLICIES

Ref. NOTE ON CURRENT STATUS OF EU LEGISLATIVE PROCESS by David Kavanagh

Copyright Directive

David presented his analysis of the current situation of the different legislative issues of interest to FSE: SatCab, Direct Injection, Country of Origin Principle, Copyright Directive, etc... and in particular of the discussions going on in Brussels on certain parts of the copyright directive (definitions, chapter 3 under

attack, pre-14 section...). See detailed explanations in his written report.
The URR (unwaivable right for remuneration) .
No attack against the principle of collective bargaining so far.
There is hope that the concept of “proportionate remuneration” will stay.

Creative Europe

David said that FERA (with the moral support of FSE) is trying to get back into the Media program (Creative Europe) a budget line for audiovisual networks. If this initiative succeeds, why not presenting a joint FERA/FSE project.

Remuneration study

The detailed results of the Remuneration study will be published in April 2019. David is disappointed that the results have not been made available in a public publication in September as initially planned. The publication might come too late and be less useful.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WORKSHOP

A brief presentation by David on the progress of the creation of the database for comparison of contract terms and on the programme of the two day workshop of 7 and 8 December.

WCOS 2020

WCOS model

A big step for the future of WCOS : Sarah Dearing of IAWG drafted a three way contract (IAWG, FSE, local host) which will replace the previous two way contract between FSE and the local host) and a list of tasks to share among the three parties.

WCOS 2020

Nikolaj Scherfig updated the board on the development of the organisation of the world conference in Copenhagen in 2020.

- The Nordic guilds will meet in January. Writers who attended wcos 04 will be invited to assess the conference.
- The other Nordic guilds will be highly implicated in the project.
- The organisers want to be able to welcome more writers.
- They will pay attention to the quality of the moderators, key element to the success of the conference.
- They want to work with more visuals (an opportunity to make the work of participants more visible).
- They plan to include master classes (for students) and public events.
- A strong effort will be made to increase media coverage (invite journalists) and international participation.
- They will include the FSE Award.

Amélie proposed to have a meeting in 2019 in Copenhagen (IAWG, FSE and Danish organisers) to meet, visit the places and plan for the organisation.

SÉRIE SERIES IN FONTAINEBLEAU

Ref. Email sent by Marie Baracco

The board is in principle willing to reply positively to Marie's proposal. They discussed what the needs of FSE and expectations of Série Series are and what FSE could propose accordingly. It is intended to become a long term collaboration.

FSE does not need to organise another FSE meeting at that period of the year, except maybe a board meeting. FSE should propose a special event inside Série Series, oriented to creators (writers already there and writers from FSE guilds).

David proposed a private debate to discuss issues that are usually discussed at world conferences but not privately. It is an interesting possibility for serious policy discussions on the main issues of concern to writers (streaming services for instance). This debate could help constructing the agenda of the world conference (in partnership with the Danish guild). With a strong moderator. Maybe with an analysis from strong academics. Robert thinks it is also a good opportunity for FSE to listen to writers and redefine its policies.

COMMUNICATION

The website will be launched early 2019.

Amélie asked for the possibility to do a short training on social media (community management) to improve communication. The board agreed and invited her to find an opportunity.

End of the meeting