



FEDERATION OF
SCREENWRITERS
IN EUROPE

COMMUNIQUE

FSE AGM 2019
Amsterdam, 10-11 October 2019

German screenwriter Carolin Otto elected new FSE president at the 18th annual general assembly of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe in Amsterdam on 11 October 2019.

“We are living in times of change. The European screenwriters have to speak up - for their rights and visibility as well as for the freedom of expression. I want the writer's voice to be loud and clear during the next 2 years of my presidency.”



(photo credit Inigo Garayo)

About FSE

The Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE) brings together 26 screenwriters' organisations from 21 European countries. It represents more than 7,000 professional screenwriters.

Website : federationscreenwriters.eu

twitter : [@ScreenwritersEU](https://twitter.com/ScreenwritersEU)

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SCREENWRITERS UNITE!

The need for a European network of writers for film and television materialized twenty years ago.

45 representatives of screenwriters' guilds in Europe - professional screenwriters, guilds' executives and lawyers – gathered in Amsterdam on 10 and 11 October 2019 for the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE). Meeting in Amsterdam this year was a strong symbol for the European organisations representing writers of scripts for film and TV. The idea of creating a European network of screenwriters' guilds was discussed at a first European meeting in Amsterdam in June 1999, upon the invitation of Bianca Rootsart, former director of [Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers](#), the guild representing screenwriters in the Netherlands.

The 2019 annual assembly was co-organised with **Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers / Auteursbond**, with the support of **LIRA** and **NL Film Fonds**.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Looking at screenwriters' working conditions

“Digital services, especially streaming services, are threatening to destroy everything about the way our industry works at exactly the same time as they make so many things better”, said **former FSE president Robert Taylor**. *“Screenwriters are the originators of cultural production which employs more than a million Europeans - we have to ensure that we are properly paid for our work”.* To illustrate how difficult it is for most screenwriters to make a decent living with their craft, **FSE executive officer David Kavanagh** presented the [final results](#) of a European wide study on the remuneration of audiovisual authors, a project initiated by FERA (Federation of European Film Directors). The participants also discussed how Competition Law was an issue for screenwriters who are for most of them freelance workers.

FSE is seeking to encourage collective action. **Kasper Halkier, CEO of Creative Denmark** explained how creators organisations in Denmark federated to increase bargaining power. David Kavanagh explained how the so-called “Transparency triangle” of the Copyright Directive opens up legislative opportunities for collective action in EU Member States.

NEW PROSPECTS THROUGH EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

New FSE president Carolin Otto will focus her mandate on the Implementation of the Copyright Directive

Carolin Otto has long been engaged in FSE as representative of VDD (Verband Deutscher Drehbuchautoren) - the German guild of screenwriters, as an active member of the board of FSE since 2013, and by shaping the programme of the 4th World Conference of Screenwriters held in Berlin in October 2018. She will work with 6 board members:

- **Jacob Groll**, screenwriter, board member of Drehbuchverband Austria
- **Maciej Karpinski**, screenwriter, chair of the Circle of Screenwriters of the Polish Filmmakers Association
- **Alexandre Manneville**, French screenwriter, member of La Guilde des Scénaristes
- **Ana Pineda**, CEO of ALMA, Spain
- **Gail Renard**, screenwriter, United-Kingdom
- **Nikolaj Scherfig**, Danish screenwriter, chair of Danske Dramatikere

FSE will work closely with its member guilds to ensure that the Copyright Directive is implemented in the most positive way for screenwriters and to help them achieve collective bargaining agreements in as many member states as possible with broadcasters and producers organisations.