

# Flemish Screenwriters Guild - Activities Report 2019 – 2020

## 1. General info

The Flemish Screenwriters Guild (*Vlaamse Scenaristengilde vzw*) was founded in 2003. We currently have 183 paying members.

Our board meets once a month. The board consists of voluntary professional screenwriters with different backgrounds in film and/or TV. Since 2013 this board is supported by a part-time staff-member responsible for daily management and representation, and who is the central contact of our guild.

Through our weekly newsletter, our website and social media we communicate about Flemish industry events. The staff member serves as the first point of contact: he answers questions and provides information. Our website not only delivers news items, it enlists all members and serves as a knowledge center that provides online content (the previously mentioned standard option contract, podcasts, vodcasts, screenplays of Ensor nominees etc.) Some of the content is public, some is members only.

We have representatives to maintain a friendly dialogue with different organizations including two collecting societies (SABAM and DeAuteurs/SACD), the Flemish Film Fund, the coordinating Flemish Authors Society, our Belgian film festivals (Ghent, Ostend, the Short Film Festival in Leuven, Anima, Docville), politicians, educational partners and of course the F.S.E.

## 2. Current affairs

### *Lobbying*

We are still working hard to make the future of screenwriters **online proof**. In that respect, we are lobbying to include online provisions in the transposition of the **Copyright directive**. Now that we have a new federal government, we will have to convince the minister to include further reaching protection for audiovisual authors in that respect, which at the moment is missing in the law proposal. Ideally, all audiovisual authors would like to speak unisono to the minister. However, due to the pandemic, we are only restarting the negotiations with the producers, directors and actors to reach a compromise this month.

We are also beginning to work together with both our CMO's to make one standard transfer of rights contract adapted to the online exploitation of our works.

Unfortunately, the transposition of the Satkab directive has given rise to new discussions concerning the legal framework for **direct injection**. In particular, the telecom providers are using the transposition to attack the law that was passed in 2018. We are lobbying together with our CMO's and the producers to keep the existing framework, but the current law proposal by the administration is a serious step back from the compromise we reached in 2018.

### *Covid 19*

The cultural sector united in a coalition (the **Artists Coalition**) in order to speak with one voice to our political leaders. This has resulted in some modest successes for the audiovisual sector as well (e.g. a onetime sum for freelancers who cannot apply for other benefits and the relaxing of some measures in cinema's.) For more information, see [www.artiestencoalitie.be](http://www.artiestencoalitie.be).

### *Events*

All our events this semester have been turned into **webinars** that our members can follow online. We will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.