

Were present:

Board members

Carolin Otto
Maciej Karpinski
Ana Pineda
Jacob Groll
Gail Renard
Nikolaj Scherfig
Alexandre Manneville

Staff

David Kavanagh
Amélie Clément

Introduction

FSE president Carolin Otto invited each board member to comment his/her situation as a writer and the general situation in his/her country: economic and social impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the audiovisual sector and screenwriters. Governmental support schemes and other schemes (film funds, CMOs, Netflix...) and difficulties for freelancers to apply. Shootings relaunched. Situation of artists, etc.

Minutes of the previous board meeting

The minutes of the board meeting held in Paris on 24 and 25 January 2020 were unanimously approved.

Short report on the financial situation

Amélie is working with a new accounting firm in Belgium to set up a more professional accounting system for FSE. An intermediary report will be soon available for the second semester of 2019. The current situation is good, with enough money on the bank account to continue working. However here are some concerns for the next years, depending on how the economic crisis will affect the income.

Situation in the European Union

David made a short report on the situation of the European institutions and on various joint statements signed by FSE issued by various groupings of organisations. He also briefed the board on various projects going on at FSE (relationship with FERA and UNI MEI, with SAA, discussions on Netflix with some FSE member guilds and WGA representatives, project of webinars with FERA)...

WCOS Copenhagen 2020

The board acknowledged the final decision to postpone the world conference to October 6 and 7, 2021 and got a copy of the letter sent to the steering committee of the conference. FSE will write to its member guilds to inform them. The FSE award will be postponed as well.

The FSE board agreed on the idea suggested by FSE staff to organise a series of webinars in Fall 2020 on various issues related to WCOS, to keep the spirit of WCOS alive until the next physical conference. Nikolaj mentioned the big success of DOX in Denmark: <https://en.cphdox.dk/> (share their experience).

FSE General assembly 2020 – 9 October 2020

Most probably the next assembly will be online. FSE staff will explore legal and technical possibilities to vote online and will adapt the contents of the meeting to online sessions around a theme (how does it work in Europe, for example) and items of discussion proposed by the guilds.

Other issues debated during the meeting

- The role and importance of Culture and stories, storytelling
- Development schemes for writers / the place of the writer
- Relaunch production
- VOD, Netflix, new platforms / a truly European broadcaster-streaming service?
- Animation is the future
- Authorship : what directors and producers want and what screenwriters have to pay attention to?
- Contracts: less work, less paid?
- Copyright directive implementation

New projects for FSE

With UNI MEI and FERA (DG Emp) : Workshops, capacity building, contracts, collective bargaining.
Application under preparation.

With EFADs and FERA: project on Development.

Send FSE guilds a short questionnaire to know more about their situation during the Covid-19 crisis.

End of the meeting.