

MINUTES

to be approved by the annual general assembly during the AGM 2021

Minutes of 9 October 2020

FSE STATUTORY MATTERS

- Minutes of the previous annual general meeting (FSE AGM, Amsterdam, 10-11 October 2019)
- Financial Report (1st July 2019-30th June 2020)
- Activity Report (since the previous AGM)

Quorum: 18 countries represented

1. Agenda

>> The general assembly unanimously approved the agenda of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the 18th annual general meeting, Amsterdam, 10-11 October 2019

The FSE member guilds received the full version of the minutes (revised and approved by the Executive Committee in Paris on 24-25 January 2020). At the meeting, Amélie Clément presented the main decisions made by the general assembly.

>> The general assembly unanimously approved the minutes of the AGM of 10-11 October 2019.

3. Financial Report (1st July 2019-30th June 2020)

Amélie Clément presented the financial situation of FSE and gave detailed explanations on the financial results – income and expenses (prepared and revised by an accounting firm, Art Consult/Deg and Partners, based in Brussels).

>> The general assembly unanimously approved the financial report.

4. Activity Report (since October 2019)

The member guilds received the full version of the activity report. During the meeting Amélie Clément and David Kavanagh presented the main items of the activity report. (The video recording of David and Amélie's comments on the activity report and questions from the members is available upon request).

One proposal emerged: the need to organise regular online meetings on various issues which cannot be discussed at length during physical assemblies, such as streamers.

Contents of the Activity Report

- The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on screenwriters and FSE guilds
- World Conference of Screenwriters postponed: October 6th and 7th 2021 in Copenhagen
- Meetings of the Executive Committee
- Staff work
- Short notes on finances, administration and communication
- Main areas of lobbying, meetings and statements:

Implementation of the Copyright Directive

Collective bargaining

Covid recovery measures

Freedom of Expression

Negotiation with Netflix

Gender

Other items

>> The general assembly unanimously approved the activity report.

End of the first day.

Minutes of 16 October 2020

The video recording of the discussions of the meeting of 16 October 2020 is available upon request. These minutes are limited to the main decisions made by the general assembly.

1. Agenda

- Consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Implementation of Copyright Directive
- New EU legislation on collective bargaining
- Questionnaires
- Freedom of Expression
- Eastern and Central European countries and other new members
- Filmed and digitalized stage performances communicated to an online public : how FSE members can secure accurate payments and the assignment of rights.
- Proposal for a series of zoom meetings
- An overview of guilds' annual reports
- In 2021, FSE goes 20 year old. Call for ideas to celebrate
- AOB (any other business)

>> The general assembly unanimously approved the agenda of the meeting.

2. Consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic

David Kavanagh proposed this idea: doing a simple six or seven question questionnaire to all of the screenwriters of Europe, asking them the same questions, giving us some basic simple information which we can inform our own policies with, but also use as a lobbying tool in the future.

>> The general assembly agreed to circulate to their individual members a simple questionnaire on the impact of Covid-19.

3. Proposal for a series of zoom meetings

Amélie Clément and David Kavanagh presented a first series of Zoom meetings (items and dates) :

Friday 30 October / Assess impact of Covid-19
Thursday 12 November / Freedom of Expression
Tuesday 24 November / Streaming services

>> The general assembly agreed to engage into a series of Zoom meetings on various key issues.

4. Implementation of Copyright Directive

David Kavanagh introduced the FSE/FERA playbook on Chapter III of the Copyright Directive and checklist.

LINK: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BxamZBkLoZChocylcwS4p-63SiSCcTf_/view?usp=sharing

He also gave recent news on the very slow implementation and asked the FSE member guilds to give news on any progress of the implementation in their country to help FSE coordinate.

5. New EU legislation on collective bargaining

David Kavanagh presented the project of DG Competition which has explicitly committed to the idea of allowing freelance workers in Europe to collectively bargain and to remove any blockage that exists in competition law which would prevent collective bargaining by freelance workers, through a regulation.

FSE has been actively involved in some of the initial discussions (meetings, mostly in partnership with other creators' organisations; in addition, FSE has commissioned an advisor on competition law to get high level expertise).

David detailed the expected legislative process along this project.

A discussion followed on possible kickbacks (producers, CMOs, trade unions).

6. Freedom of Expression

Carolin Otto presented the letters written by FSE on this issue. This issue will be discussed more in length at one of the first Zoom meetings.

7. Eastern and Central European countries and other new members

David Kavanagh presented the work done by the staff to develop contacts in Eastern and Central European countries. He invited FSE member guilds to share contacts.

FSE is trying to keep in touch with APAD in Portugal, hoping that Portugal will be back in FSE.

8. Filmed and digitalized stage performances communicated to an online public : how FSE members can secure accurate payments and the assignment of rights.

Several FSE guilds represent playwrights and have concerns, in particular with the acceleration of digitization in the Covid period. This item of the agenda was proposed by the writers' guild of Sweden. FSE will organise a Zoom meeting specifically on this issue.

8. An overview of guilds' annual reports

David Kavanagh selected a few common items.

Social welfare

A number of countries are talking about the problems of social welfare for independent workers, for freelance workers, including authors, which have had a bit of a spotlight shun on it by governments' attempt to support freelancers during the early parts of the Covid crisis.

David thinks that FSE should start thinking about how to assemble information about the social welfare situation of freelance workers (health care, pensions, etc). A long-term project for FSE to make a study (by commissioning a survey from an external agency).

Credits

FSE will propose a Zoom meeting to start a detailed discussion on credits, compare the situation in different countries.

9. In 2021, FSE goes 20 year old.

FSE staff called for ideas to celebrate and will present some ideas to the members.

10. Questionnaire : an overview of FSE member guilds

FSE is analyzing the answers provided by the guilds to the questionnaire and will write a formal presentation of the results. The information is very valuable and informative and will be helpful.

End of the meeting