

Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers (Network of Screenwriters) / section of the Auteursbond

2022 REPORT TO FSE

With Covid hopefully behind us, theatre attendance still wasn't back to normal in 2022. Recently business has seemed to pick up, although (national) cross-over content is still struggling.

As a Guild, in terms of policy and lobbying activity, our main focus was, and is, twofold.

Firstly, there's the overhaul of Dutch Authors' Contract Law, which more or less coincided with the transposition of the European Copyright Directive into national law.

Specifically getting mandatory collective bargaining on VOD-rights by our CMO to become part of Authors' Contract Law has proven to be a real battleground issue, with our traditional industry opponents now being joined by Netflix, and Amazon on the way. Towards the end of 2023 the legislative process will have run its course, so frenzied lobbying from all sides will be the order of the day. Early indications don't seem to be wholly unfavourable, though.

Secondly, there's the issue of collective bargaining for the self employed in general. Even our usually stagnant government has become aware that, certainly in the creative and cultural industries, freelancers have been exposed to a race to the bottom for far too long. So the Secretary of State for Culture has helped set up what amounts to collective bargaining tables. As screenwriters we're participating in the Audiovisual Table, where the guilds of writers, directors, editors, DOPs, actors, production designers and location scouts are trying to reach a basic minimum agreement with the independent producers and (for a start) Dutch Public Broadcasting. Results to be expected in the course of 2023, so fingers crossed.

No doubt the tireless lobbying of both FSE en FERA in Brussels regarding the Copyright Directive and room for collective bargaining for the self employed in the field of culture has been very helpful in any progress mentioned above. The Dutch government and Competition Authority only ever seem to move when forced - a lot of the time by 'Europe'.