

Minutes of the 20th FSE annual general assembly Parts I & II
(FSE AGM 2021)

Minutes of the 20th annual general assembly Part I
Munich & online, 26 Nov 2021

Agenda

1. Vote on the conduct of the general assembly.
2. Presentation of the financial results of the period 1st July 2020 - 30th June 2021 and vote.
3. Vote on new full members: LARS in Luxembourg (currently candidate member) and the Polish Screenwriters Guild.
4. Adjournment of the meeting and other items until February of 2022.

Quorum

See the signed list of members and their representatives.

Excused: Iceland, Estonia

Quorum : 19 votes (out of a total of 21)

The quorum required by legal and statutory provisions is respected.

The members of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE) gathered in Munich, Germany (online presence), upon convocation sent by email by the executive

Item 1 - Vote on the conduct of the general assembly

Considering the new wave of Covid contaminations, the executive committee of FSE decided to cancel the physical annual general assembly initially to be organised in Brussels. In order to deal with statutory matters on time, the executive committee invited members to attend the first part of the annual general meeting (AGM) online. The executive committee proposed to give all powers to Carolin Otto, president of FSE, to chair the AGM in Munich, Germany.

This proposal was accepted unanimously by the 19 members.

Carolin Otto, chair of the AGM, conducted the next votes.

Item 2 - Presentation of the financial results of the period 1st July 2020 - 30th June 2021 and vote.

The general assembly unanimously voted in favour of the financial results of the period 1st July 2020 - 30th June 2021 (balance sheet established by the accountancy Deg & Partners, Brussels).

Item 3 - Vote on new full members: LARS in Luxembourg (currently candidate member) and the Polish Screenwriters Guild.

Carolin Otto invited the representatives of the two applicants to present their guilds. She expressed the recommendation from the executive committee of FSE to welcome these two new guilds within FSE.

The vote was conducted by Carolin Otto. The two guilds were unanimously accepted as new members of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe from the year 2022.

- LARS (Luxembourg)
- Gildia Scenarzystów Polskich - Polish Screenwriters' Guild (Poland)

Item 4 - Adjournment of the meeting and other items until February of 2022.

Carolin Otto made the following proposal: all the other items - initially on the agenda of the cancelled physical meeting, will be discussed at an adjourned meeting to be scheduled around end February/early March. Date and organisation will depend on the evolution of the covid pandemic. Members will receive an invitation in due time.

This proposal was approved unanimously.

End of the meeting Part I

Minutes of the 20th annual general assembly Part II

Brussels, 6 May 2012

Agenda

- Item 1 / Approval of the Agenda
- Item 2 / Minutes of the 19th annual general assembly (online, 9 & 16 Oct 2020)
- Item 3 / Draft minutes of the 20th annual general assembly Part I, online, 29 Nov 2021 (financial results)
- Item 4 / FSE Activity Report since the 19th AGM (including EU policies)
- Item 5 / Partner member: new candidate SGI, the Writers Guild of Israel
- Item 6 / Support to Ukrainian screenwriters
- Item 7 / Election of the Executive Committee
- Item 8 / Revision of the statutes of the association: proposed changes
- Item 9 / New 3-year plan
- Item 10 / New charter
- Item 11 / A Report on Freedom of Expression
- Item 12 / Joint IAWG/FSE campaign on streamers

Participation > see signed participants' list

Excused: Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Slovenia. No proxy.

The quorum required by legal and statutory provisions is respected.

Item 1 / Agenda

>> The agenda of the meeting was unanimously approved by the Full members.

Item 2 / Minutes of the 19th annual general assembly (online, 9 & 16 Oct 2020)

The vote was proposed by Hugh Farley (Ireland), seconded by Vinicio Canton (Italy).

>> The minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 4 / FSE Activity Report since the 19th AGM (including EU policies)

David Kavanagh and Amélie Clément presented the activity report.

These minutes do not repeat the contents of the activity report. Please refer to this document.

Item 5 / Partner member: new candidate SGI, the Screenwriters Guild of Israel (SGI)

The FSE Executive committee wants SGI on board. David Kavanagh explained why SGI can only be welcomed as partner member.

Opinions:

Ana Pineda, Spain, is in favour. SGI was very helpful to ALMA.

Jan Herchenroeder, Germany. They are in contact with SGI within IAWG. SGI will provide interesting political information to FSE.

Hugh Farley, Ireland is also very positive. SGI will bring strong added value to FSE.

Ellie Peers, UK said that SGI went on strike to protect public services broadcasting and FSE can learn from that experience.

Nikolaj Scherfig proposes that SGI attends FSE AGM as observer. David Kavanagh explained that partner members are not invited at the official part of the AGM which is for full members only.

The vote was proposed by Spain, seconded by Ireland.

>> The Full members of the FSE unanimously approved the application of SGI as partner member.

Item 6 / Support to Ukrainian screenwriters

Only a few guilds replied to the appeal launched by FSE president Carolin Otto. David Kavanagh asked guilds to at least reply to these letters, whether they decide to contribute financially or not, for any reason.

In addition to what FSE and a few guilds contributed to the Emergency Film Fund of the ICFR, David contacted EFADs and CILECT and is trying to establish a database of Ukrainian screenwriters.

The representatives of the two Polish guilds explained what they are doing concretely to support Ukrainians in Poland.

Carolin Otto commented on Russian writers who fled Russia (ex. Support in Germany).

Susin Lindblom: International Pen have a lot of information & gave money. Lots of contacts with Russian dissidents.

In Italy, the president of the CMO SIA decided not to give rights money to the Russian artists. The Writers Guild Italy is against this decision. On 25-26 May 2022 WGI will organise a small festival with Ukrainian and Russian screenwriters.

Item 7 / Election of the Executive Committee

The election was ruled by the statute of FSE in Paragraph 10 — Executive Committee : Composition and Generality.

1 / Election of the President

Carolin Otto was proposed by VDD , Germany and seconded by WGGB, UK.

>> Carolin Otto was unanimously elected as president.

2 / Election of the members of the Executive Committee

Alexandre Manneville and **Ana Pineda** decided not to run for another mandate. The members of the general assembly warmly thanked Alexandre Manneville and Ana Pineda for their contribution as board members.

Maciej Karpinski was proposed by the Polish Screenwriters Guild, Poland and seconded by WGI, Italy.

Gail Renard was proposed by WGGB, UK and seconded by Drehbuchverband Austria.

Nikolaj Scherfig was proposed by the Writers Guild of Sweden and seconded by FLH, Iceland.

Vinicio Canton was proposed by FAGA, Spain and seconded by the Writers Guild of Denmark.

Jacob Groll was proposed by ALMA, Spain and seconded by WGGB, UK.

>> Maciej Karpinski, Gail Renard, Nikolaj Scherfig, Vinicio Canton and Jacob Groll were unanimously elected members of the executive committee. Elected members took up office on the conclusion of the General Assembly.

The new Executive Committee hope to co-opt a candidate as soon as possible.

Item 8 / Revision of the statutes of the association: proposed changes

Amélie Clément presented the proposed changes and asked the general assembly to support them, then FSE staff and executive committee will do more work to draft these changes. The changes got full support from the General Assembly, which instructed the staff and executive committee to draft the changes for the AGM in October 2022.

Item 9 / New 3-year plan

David Kavanagh presented the main items of the new proposed three year plan. He asked the members' opinions. A few comments:

Ana Pineda, Spain, proposed to refocus on four priorities:

- 1) collective bargaining. Ex. Her guild needs to know exactly and very clearly what countries have in terms of collective bargaining (global battle / local battle).
- 2) the relationship with streamers (urgent to address this issue)
- 3) improving the situation and statutes of screenwriters
- 4) harmonization of the credits provisions

She thinks that Research and Information is long and expensive. FSE needs to quantify the financial needs to do more research.

Hugh Farley, Ireland agrees on Collective Bargaining as a priority. He needs to know what has been the most efficient strategy to get to collective bargaining. Maybe also think about collective actions that guilds can make together (bilateral and multilateral actions). Other participants talked about the possibility to coordinate action: for example, all guilds ask together, on the same day, for a meeting with Netflix in their country, to discuss what's in Chapter III.

He also wondered how guilds can better use their collective knowledge and expertise (online shared documents for guilds to contribute?).

He also proposed to establish small working groups to address specific issues. Online tools like Zoom are a good tool.

Susin Lindblom in Sweden said that EU legislation on Copyright is not over. Action on implementation is still a long fight. Example: interpretation of the new laws; collective action in one country where the transition is problematic? Necessity of going to court? David replied that the first year of this three year plan gives priority to the Copyright Directive Transposition.

Jan Herchenroeder, Germany encouraged David to continue the meetings on Netflix.

Nikolaj Scherfig, Denmark, said that FSE should keep as a priority the work with Central and Eastern Europe.

To a question on regular online meetings with lawyers (having a sub-working group only with lawyer is an old project at FSE) David replied that it is rather complicated (some lawyers are employed by guilds but do not always work on CB agreements, some are external lawyers, etc.). But we'll try it.

Margret Ornlófsdóttir raised the issue of the relationship with producers. Some members are worried since a few producers want transparency rights. The red line for FSE should be: producers cannot ask for authorship. Besides, writers are in a stronger position as before. A writer who brings a project to a producer should be a writer - executive producer.

>> David Kavanagh will update the three year plan for the next meeting of the general assembly, taking into account some of the comments.

In particular:

- Introduce a time frame, prioritize actions in time
- Give priority to the negotiation with streamers
- Look again at the list of tasks and reduce the number of tasks
- Develop ways to exchange information on collective bargaining between FSE and the guilds and among the guilds themselves.
- Develop working groups

Item 11 / A Report on Freedom of Expression

This report is not finished yet but work continues.

Item 12 / Joint IAWG/FSE campaign on streamers

See the letter proposed by IAWG. David Kavanagh announced that WGA is preparing a very aggressive campaign against streamers. How do FSE and guilds place themselves in this campaign. He presented the proposal made by IAWG (a joint letter to streamers). The purpose is to show streamers that there is a global organisation of writers. It is also important to show writers, in particular young writers, that they are supported by an international network.

The participants exchanged views on the IAWG letter.

David Kavanagh will go back to Sarah Dearing at IAWG on the following principles:

FSE members are very favorable to this initiative. But they want to have a discussion on the campaign behind before signing the letter. They also want to anticipate the next steps, in particular on the fact that some FSE guilds are in negotiation with Netflix and want to make sure that this campaign does not enter in conflict with current negotiations.

Item 10 / New charter

The founding charter has no legal status. It is a bit old. The general assembly did not have time to fully discuss the contents of the Charter to draft a new one. Carolin Otto proposed that a small working group drafts a new charter for the next general assembly.

End of the meeting