

MINUTES

Participants: see signed list of participants

Quorum: 21 votes / 23 countries (1 vote per country)

Excused: Latvia, Greece, Estonia, Croatia, Luxembourg

18 countries represented at the meeting and 3 proxies : Estonia to Finland / Croatia to Slovenia / Luxembourg to Switzerland

Item 1 / Approval of the agenda of the FSE AGM 2023

Documents

FSE AGM 2023 agenda

The general assembly unanimously approved the proposed agenda.

Item 2 / Approval of the minutes of the FSE AGM 2022 (Copenhagen, October 7, 2022)

Documents

FSE AGM 2022 minutes

The general assembly unanimously approved the minutes of the previous general assembly.

Item 3 / New members

Documents

Letters of application from ASSA (Slovakia) and SGL (Latvia)

The general assembly unanimously approved the decision of the executive committee to welcome ASSA, Slovakia, as candidate member.

The general assembly unanimously approved the application of the Screenwriters Guild of Latvia to become full member.

Item 4 / “Brussels Strategy”

Documents

Introduction to several items of the agenda

The general assembly approved in principle the “Brussels Strategy” presented by the FSE President Carolin Otto, treasurer Jacob Groll and executive officer David Kavanagh.

Item 5 / Report on Activities and Policy since the previous AGM

Documents

FSE AGM 2023 annual report

After a short presentation of the activity report by David Kavanagh and Amélie Clément, the general assembly approved it.

Item 7 / Focus on Credits

Documents

FSE recommendations on credits 2023

Several guilds proposed to translate the document in their own language. When the publications in other languages will be ready, FSE will again publicly launch the publication, jointly with the member guilds (publication at the same time).

Josep Gatell of ALMA proposed to add a note on the “showrunner”, who should always be a writer.

Item 8 / Focus on Freedom of Expression

Documents

FSE report on freedom of expression

FSE asked the participants and guilds to send their feedback on this report, before updating it if necessary and publishing it.

Sven Baldvinsson (Iceland) thanked Carolin Otto for this initiative.

Item 9 / Review of the FSE 3-year plan

Documents

Introduction to several items of the agenda

The general assembly approved David Kavanagh’s proposal in principle. Focussing on common strategies among guilds and keeping FSE strong and effective remains essential.

Item 10 / Financial report (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Documents

FSE 2022-2023 financial account (analytical) v2

Balance Sheet on 30 June 2023

Amélie Clément and FSE treasurer Jacob Groll presented the financial results.

The general assembly unanimously approved the financial accounts.

Item 11 / New annual membership fee structure

Documents

New membership fee structure for AGM

Amélie Clément presented the new fee structure and explained its origin.

A few participants expressed views. In particular, Josep Gatell (on behalf of ALMA) said that ALMA totally understand that they need to raise more money and they are happy to raise the fee, but we should establish some objective criteria to evaluate the 3-year plan within three years, because it's quite an effort to them to raise their fees.

David Kavanagh stated that Josep's idea of a regular evaluation of how this has worked was really a good idea and an organized arrangement to reexamin the situation on a regular basis should be put in place.

No vote was taken on this proposal.

The AGM then took the following decisions:

- The general assembly unanimously approved the goal to reach 60 000 euros per year in membership fees (full and candidate members).
- The general assembly unanimously approved the principle of having 6 levels of fees.
- The general assembly unanimously approved the 3 criteria used to determine which fee a guild will pay.

FSE will propose a way to reexamine the situation of each guild regularly.

FSE will take into account new information from a few guilds to establish the exact amount of the fees for the year 2024.

Item 12 / Budget for the next period

Documents

FSE budget 2024

The general assembly approved the budget for the year 2024.

Item 13 / Election of the FSE Executive Committee

1) Election of the president

Carolin Otto was nominated by Austria and seconded by UK. She was unanimously elected by secret ballot.

2) Election of the executive committee

- Gail Renard was nominated by Austria and seconded by Ireland.
- Vinicio Canton was nominated by Spain and seconded by Switzerland.
- Maciej Karpinski was nominated by Germany and seconded by Bulgaria.

- Nikolaj Scherfig was nominated by Iceland and seconded by Sweden.
- Jacob Groll was nominated by UK and seconded by Germany.
- Cyril Tysz was nominated by Germany and seconded by Italy.

The seven candidates were unanimously elected by secret ballot.

Amélie Clément will publish the composition of the new executive committee in the *Moniteur Belge* in Belgium.

Item 14 / FSE Statutes and byelaws

David Kavanagh reminded the general opinion of the participants at the online meeting of 30 October 2023.

- do not change the aims of the statutes
- reduce the statutes to the legal minimum
- write byelaws (internal rules)
- organise an extraordinary general assembly online early 2024

The general assembly approved these principles.

Item 16 / IAWG-FSE joint campaign on streamers and Working group on Netflix

Documents

Introduction to several items of the agenda

The General Assembly approved unanimously the joint campaign with IAWG on the Streamers. There was support for both information about global markets, which everyone felt would be really useful, and support for information and advice about the structure of existing deals, recognising how difficult this might be in practice.

This campaign will be launched at WCOS 2024 in Ireland.

Item 17 / Artificial intelligence

Documents

Introduction to several items of the agenda

Second document on AI - item 17 of the agenda

The participants discussed the four proposals made in David Kavanagh's document:

- *Firstly, members of FSE should not recommend to individual writers that they use generative AI.*
- *Secondly we should recommend that they use either written or preferably machine readable optouts to try to protect against scraping of their material.*

- *Thirdly we should recommend to individual writers the kind of changes that they should make to their contracts to protect themselves from any negative legal implications in using generative AI.*
- *Fourthly we should pass a motion at the GA to define general policy positions of FSE.*

The general assembly in its vast majority was against the first proposal: FSE should not actively discourage screenwriters from using artificial intelligence.

FSE will set up a working group on AI to rewrite suggestions or recommendations from FSE, taking into account the different positions from the guilds and draft a common position on AI, with a strong focus on copyright and legal implications.

Proposal 4 – IAWG motion on Artificial Intelligence.

IAWG invited FSE to endorse its motion to make it a global motion. The motion was already supported by the FSE members that are members of IAWG at their annual meeting. The motion was proposed by UK and seconded by Germany. The general assembly unanimously approved the IAWG motion on AI.

Item 18 / FSE future campaign on the Implementation of Article 19 of the Copyright Directive

Documents

Introduction to several items of the agenda

David Kavanagh presented the idea of starting a campaign of asking individual members to write to their producers asking for the information required under Article 19. Jan Herchenroeder described the campaign launched in Germany and Jacob Groll detailed the situation in Austria.

Some guilds think that individual writers might be afraid of being blacklisted by sending letters to producers. A solution could be to say “My guild has asked me to send you this letter” and to train producers on what they have to do.

It was agreed that, despite the difficulties, the issue was of such importance that it had to be addressed and David Kavanagh and Amelie Clement were asked to consult the members further and propose specific action.

Item 20 / Situation on feature film production and audience

Documents

Introduction to several items of the agenda

David Kavanagh thinks that FSE should pay more attention to the situation of feature films and proposed to introduce this discussion at FSE level. Participants exchanged views on development, weakness in negotiation, lack of information and data, funding systems, crisis of feature film, film schools. Despite the recession of feature films and theatres, some feature films have good box office results.

The general assembly approved the principle of having an initial informal discussion on feature film. FSE will organise an online meeting.

Item 21 / News from member guilds

There was no time for this discussion. All the annual reports sent by the members are available in the members' area of the FSE website.

Carolin Otto thanked Amélie Clément and David Kavanagh for their work. David Kavanagh announced that he will retire in a few months and received a long standing ovation.

Conclusion of the meeting