

REPORT

May 17, 2022

REPORT TO MEMBERS: FERA General Assembly Annual Conference 2022 in Frankfurt (DE) / May 11-13, 2022

Dear FERA members,

This report summarises FERA activities, discussions and topics covered during the General Assembly 2022. Feel free to pass along to your board and wider membership!

Wednesday, May 11

Members from 23 countries met in Frankfurt, Germany from May 11 to 13 for its General Assembly annual conference – and first in-person gathering since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic, kindly hosted by [AG DOK](#) in partnership with [BVR](#), [LICHTER Filmfest Frankfurt International](#) with the support of [VG Bild-Kunst](#).

On Wednesday 11 May participants gathered at the [German Film Institute and Film Museum](#) for the welcoming cocktail, a short film screening, and a visit to the museum with the special exhibition of [CATASTROPHE](#), focusing on disaster films. Delegates then had the opportunity to attend a panel on film funding and coproduction in Europe organised by LICHTER Filmfest Frankfurt International in the afternoon, [now available online](#).

Thursday, May 12

FERA members convened in the morning at the [MKK Museum fur Moderne Kunst](#) for the General Assembly Statutory meeting & Elections. The statutory meeting was successful with members approving the 2021 General Assembly draft minutes, 2021 Financial report after hearing the internal audit report by Dutch member DDG, the 2021-2022 Activity report, 2022 Provisional Budget.

Topics of essential importance for our community were discussed, such as the war in Ukraine, the future of independent audiovisual creation and the importance of collective bargaining to achieve sustainable conditions for directors throughout the EU.

As a reminder, all documents related to the FERA FSE UNI MEI joint project “Strengthening Collective Bargaining for Audiovisual Creators”, such as workshop or webinars reports and resources on the 2019 Copyright Directive transposition in national laws, are available to members via [this link](#). **Ula Furgal**, lecturer at [CREATe, University of Glasgow](#) - The UK Copyright and Creative Economy Centre, who is involved in the Copyright Directive transposition database project, can be reached at Ula.Furgal@glasgow.ac.uk.

2022 is a year of renewal for the organization as our members present elected the new Executive Committee members and new Honorary President for a two-year mandate. The new Executive Committee is composed of **Bill Anderson** (United Kingdom), Chair; **Elisabet Gustafsson** (Sweden), Honorary Treasurer; **Ida Grøn** (Denmark), **Eugenia Arsenis** (Greece), **Lou Jeunet** (France), **Martijn Winkler** (Netherlands), **Salvador Simo’ Busom** (Spain). The newly elected FERA Honorary President is **Jasmila Žbanić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The Draft 2022 General Assembly minutes will follow in the coming weeks.

After a well-deserved lunch break with [Galette Bretonne](#), members attended the first FERA public panel **FILMMAKERS AT WAR** at 15:00, taking place at the main location of the LICHTER Filmfest Frankfurt International, [Cantaate Saal Theater](#). Featuring directors **Saeed Al Batalj** (Syria), **Maryna Er Gorbach** (Ukraine), **Agnieszka Holland** (Poland) and **Jasmila Žbanić** (Bosnia) joining remotely and **Abdullah Al-Khateeb** (Palestine-Syria) this hybrid roundtable was moderated by Slovenian filmmaker & outgoing FERA Chair **Klemen Dvornik** and Croatian filmmaker & outgoing FERA board member **Hrvoje Hribar**.

The discussion laid bare the urgent need for the filmmaking community to come closer together to support filmmakers at war and their singular vision which looks far beyond recording images or propaganda. You can watch [Panel #1: FILMMAKERS AT WAR on Youtube here](#).

Friday, May 13

Friday was a day of brainstorming and knowledge-sharing for participants during the morning Workshop session. Newly elected Chair of the Executive Committee **Bill Anderson** and CEO **Pauline Durand-Vialle** asked participants to reflect on their needs to feed perspectives for future FERA action on working conditions.

An introductory summary of past actions on this topic included a snapshot of the results of the 2021 General Assembly Flash survey on the impact of COVID-19 on European Filmmakers, which brought interesting and unexpected perspectives from the membership and concluding with a whopping 89% of respondents agreeing that FERA should work on this topic further. Participants then divided into groups to produce a wishlist summarising what members need to support their local actions, as well as identifying what requests for data & analysis could be brought to the [European Audiovisual Observatory](#). Based on the conclusions of the breakout groups presented in the plenary, the Executive Committee will assess common ground and possible actions.

During the Members Open Floor that followed, Oskari Sipola from the Association of Finnish Film Directors SELO introduced [a short campaign video on the implementation in Finland of the 2019 Copyright Directive](#), and Roei Elba from the Israel Directors Guild presented the project [Creating an equal culture](#), about integrating people with disabilities into the film and television sector.

Finally, participants attended the second FERA public panel on “Filmmaking & Politics **A 21ST CENTURY MISMATCH?**” at 13:00 CET in the evocative location of [Paulskirche](#), featuring filmmakers **Costa Gavras** and **David Bernet**, as well as **Tomas Eskilson**, Head of Film i Väst Analysis, **Mathieu Fournet**, French CNC Director of European and International Affairs, **Maria Silvia Gatta**, European Commission Policy Officer and **Susan Newman-Baudais**, Eurimages Executive Director. During a discussion moderated by Dutch filmmaker & FERA board member **Martijn Winkler** and FERA CEO **Pauline Durand-Vialle**, they affirmed that artistic freedom and cultural diversity, understood as the ability for singular creative voices to emerge across Europe and beyond, must remain cornerstones of meaningful European filmmaking politics – from regulation to public support at local, national and European levels. You can watch [Panel #2: FILMMAKING & POLITICS: A 21ST CENTURY MISMATCH? on Youtube here](#).

Other materials you may find of interest:

[FERA General Assembly 2022 Statement](#)

[Film i Väst Analysis- Public Funding at a Crossroads](#)

[All panel recordings are as always available on our website in the MEET THE DIRECTORS SECTION!](#)

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About Us

Founded in 1980, FERA represents the independent voice of European film and TV directors in Brussels. With 49 organizations as members from 35 countries, it speaks for more than 20,000 European film and TV directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests at national and EU level.

Honorary President: Jasmila ŽBANIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ambassadors: Marco BELLOCCHIO (Italy), Isabel COIXET (Spain), Heddy HONIGMANN (Netherlands), Michaël R. ROSKAM (Belgium), Charles STURRIDGE (UK), István SZABÓ (Hungary), Agnieszka HOLLAND (Poland)

Executive Committee: Bill ANDERSON (United Kingdom), Chair; Elisabet GUSTAFSSON (Sweden), Honorary Treasurer; Ida GRØN (Denmark), Eugenia ARSENIS (Greece), Lou JEUNET (France), Martijn WINKLER (Netherlands), Salvador SIMO' BUSOM (Spain)

EU Transparency Register Id No. 29280842236-21

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