



**FERA**

Fédération Européenne des Réalisateur de l'Audiovisuel  
Federation of European Film Directors

**Julia REDA MEP**

Parlement européen

Bât. Altiero Spinelli

05F158

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B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

Brussels, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

Dear Mrs Reda,

After releasing a Parliament draft report on the implementation of Directive 2001/29/EC (Copyright Directive) mid January, you recently called on creatives to give you their opinion on the upcoming copyright reform.

The Federation of European Film Directors (FERA), founded in 1980, is the only organization representing film directors at the European level. With 35 directors associations as members from 29 countries, we speak for over 20,000 European screen directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests at the national and European level.

Before telling you what it is we want, perhaps it might be useful to explain what it is we actually do.

During the production process, it is the director who as creative leader brings a singular vision to a film, a vision that begins from the original idea and continues right through the production process, from the first stage of writing the script to the editing stage, adapting to the requirements of a production process that can last over significant periods of time – on some films, several years.

We conceive stories for the screen. Working alongside our co-authors, screenwriters, composers, we develop the script into a visual story, directing the camera and actors to visualise the screenplay, commissioning music and supervising the edit and sound design to create the finished work or film. Making those stories captivating for the audience in front of the screen, whatever their subject and form, is a craft and requires a very specific skillset. In our audiovisual industry, it also takes significant amounts of time and money. This is our authorship as filmmakers, a decisive part of the creative process that is appropriately recognised in the law of copyright.

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**FERA, AISBL – Fédération Européenne des Réalisateur de l'Audiovisuel / Federation of European Film Directors**

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You ask what is important to us : here is what we stand for.

We want to tell our stories our way, to make our films the best way possible. We want to work, and we want to be fairly paid for that work.

We want the production of our films to be sufficiently funded, and to be funded in a way so that a diversity of films can be made, ranging from arthouse to entertainment. We want consistent audiovisual policies that allow this. We want to be paid for the writing, shooting, and post production of our films. We want this work to proceed on a sound contractual basis with our producers, to deliver fair pay and working conditions.

We want our films to be shown properly so they can meet their audience. As authors, our ownership of the film must allow us to be fairly remunerated on its success, so that we can move on to start working on other projects and keep doing what we do in a sustainable, ongoing way.

Those are our priorities. The current EU copyright framework doesn't prevent any of this, indeed it facilitates it. However, as we must all recognise, the audiovisual landscape is changing rapidly and as directors, we want to see the emerging audiovisual scene continue to provide a flourishing ecology for filmmaking in Europe in which we can continue to make distinctive works, and be fairly paid for them.

The challenges the audiovisual industry faces today, in its adaptation to the digital era, are numerous - and the digital distribution of audiovisual works indeed raises a lot of crucial issues. Its impact on investment needs to be addressed, as does the relationship between our works and the audience.

Your draft report acknowledges the necessity for legal protection and “appropriate” remuneration for all categories of rightholders, calls for an improvement of the contractual position of authors. Therefore, we ask you : how can this be achieved through a weakening of authors' rights, of our ownership of the audiovisual work – which is the very basis of our economic relationship with producers ?

There is a lot to be done. Our hope is that we will all meet those challenges with responsibility and ambition.

We therefore call on a balanced and evidence-based debate of this crucial issue for our sector, a strengthening of the foundations of authors’ rights, empowering authors to have artistic control of their works and to be fairly remunerated in their exploitation, through a consistent approach that will encourage investment in the production and distribution of the audiovisual and creative works of tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

**Sir Alan PARKER**, *Honorary President*

**FERA’s Executive Committee**

**Håkan BJERKING**, *Chairman*

**André F. NEBE**, *Honorary Treasurer*

**Christophe ANDRÉI**

**Dan CLIFTON**

**Adela PEEVA**

**Maurizio SCIARRA**

**Dagmar STREICHER**

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