



Antonio Nuić
Chairperson

DHFR Croatian Film Directors' Guild
Nova Ves 18
1000 Zagreb, Croatia

Brussels, 15 November 2019

Dear Antonio,
Dear colleagues,

Founded in 1980, the Federation of European Film and TV Directors (FERA) represents the independent voice of European film and TV directors in Brussels. With 46 organizations as members from 34 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.

As a strong advocate for filmmakers artistic freedom, our organisation hereby extends its full support the Croatian filmmakers' campaign I'D LIKE TO WATCH THAT – HRT SAYS – NYET! initiated in July 2019, raising the alarm at public service broadcaster HRT's failure to fulfill its obligations regarding the promotion of European audiovisual works.

Urgent action is needed by the Croatian authorities to address a situation which has reportedly significantly degraded over the last few years and reached a critical point in terms of freedom of speech, artistic freedom and cultural diversity – essential cornerstones of a well-functioning democracy.

We stand by you in these difficult times and will report on the situation with the relevant European institutions.

Sincerely yours,

Klemen DVORNIK
FERA Chair

FERA Honorary President and Executive Committee

Agnieszka HOLLAND (Poland), *Honorary President*

Klemen DVORNIK (Slovenia), *Chair*

Sverre PEDERSEN (Norway), *Honorary Treasurer*

Bill ANDERSON (United Kingdom), **Elisabet GUSTAFSSON** (Sweden), **Hrvoje HRIBAR** (Croatia),

Lou JEUNET (France), **Alberto SIMONE** (Italy), **Birgitte STÆRMOSE** (Denmark),

C. Cay WESNIGK (Germany), **Martijn WINKLER** (The Netherlands)



društvo croatian
hrvatskih film
filmskih directors'
redatelja guild

A Boškovičeva 23, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia t/f +385 1 484 6852 e dhfr@dhfr.hr oib 91490194399 www.dhfr.hr

I'D LIKE TO WATCH THAT. HRT SAYS - NYET!

Support Croatian Authors resisting the Censorship!

The biggest problem that Croatian film directors have been facing for years now has to do with the Croatian National Television which systematically neglects its legal obligations without any sanctions. Over the last three years HRT - the Croatian National Broadcaster - declined to respect the minimum intake quota of European and national works, systematically refusing to honour its cultural and industrial obligations, as provided in the national Croatian legislation.

Faced with this problem, Croatian filmmakers launched a campaign with a following motto: I'D LIKE TO WATCH THAT. HRT SAYS - NYET! The aim of the campaign is to support 34 films, all of which have recently been rejected by Croatian National Television in its open call for tenders for documentary films. In their official trailers, filmmakers emphasize 370 international and national festivals the films were screened at as well as 90 awards already attributed to these outstanding works. Harsh ideological wording of official refusals that were addressed to the rejected producers and authors is as insulting as it is dangerous, and it seriously jeopardizes creative freedoms in Croatia.

The campaign addresses social networks and the press with the aim of putting forward an appeal for competent and transparent management of 180 million euros of HRT's annual budget collected from the statutory fees and, more to the point, addresses the necessity of distinctive change in HRT's policies and practices which should be more in compliance with European directives and Croatian cultural and broadcasting legislation.

Only several days after the commencement of the campaign I'D LIKE TO WATCH THAT. HRT SAYS - NYET!, the authors and producers of several rejected films have received direct buyout offers from HRT. By acting in such a manner, HRT has once again decided to abuse the direct call, which is something that has been happening on a regular basis. HRT continues to neglect its role of the public media service, while at the same time it threatens the very existence of Croatian filmmakers. This MUST come to an end.

Croatian filmmakers, supported by Croatian journalists as well as filmmakers from Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia and Hercegovina, the media and the democratic public, now address the wider international public. Since the Croatian government has been turning a blind eye to this problem for too long now, we are in great need for allies and help. THIS IS A FIGHT FOR OUR PROFESSION.

The Croatian Film Director's Guild, supported by the Croatian Producers' Association, is kindly asking you to support our campaign. If you are willing to extend your support, please send us a letter stating so, addressed to our Guild and the general public, with approval for us to use it in our public activities.

Chairperson of the Croatian Film Directors' Guild:


Antonio Nuić