



**Federation of European
Screen Directors**

Fédération Européenne des
Réalisateurs de l'Audiovisuel

Ms Maja Gojković
Minister of Culture and Information
of the Republic of Serbia
kabinet@kultura.gov.rs

Brussels, 21 December 2021

Dear Minister,

We are deeply concerned by recent reports of unjustified interference with expert decision and due process in the public funding allocation process of grants to projects by filmmakers Željimir Žilnik, Srđan Dragojević and Goran Marković, as the managing board of Film Center Serbia overruled the decision of its commission to co-finance these three projects after significant delay.

We share the concerns of the film community in Serbia regarding the reliability and impartiality of future funding allocation.

Freedom of artistic expression requires artists and the cultural and creative sectors at large to be independent and free of any governmental censorship, political interference, or pressure from non-state actors. In the audiovisual sector, this entails autonomy from political authorities' influence and independence of expertise from ideology when assessing or commissioning projects.

In solidarity with our Serbian colleagues, we call on you as the Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia, under whose jurisdiction Film Center Serbia operates, to ensure that such interference can no longer be applied as must be the case in a well-functioning support system in line with democratic values and respectful of filmmakers' artistic and creative freedom.

Sincerely yours,

Klemen Dvornik, Chair of the Executive Committee
Sverre Pedersen, Honorary Treasurer
Bill Anderson, Executive Committee member
Elisabet Gustafsson, Executive Committee member
Hrvoje Hribar, Executive Committee member
Lou Jeunet, Executive Committee member
Birgitte Stærmosse, Executive Committee member
C. Cay Wesnigk, Executive Committee member
Martijn Winkler, Executive Committee member
Pauline Durand-Vialle, Chief Executive Officer

Copy to:

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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.

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