Screen Directors: **Shaping a Rich and Diverse Future Through Stories**



MARIA KNILLI

Safeguard Independence

MAKE AGORAEU WORK FOR CREATORS



CHRISTOPH HOCHHÄUSLER

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In an age of indiscriminate reproducibility of content, the **independently produced, artistic film,** in which the director takes a personal stance on their subject, is an **irreplaceable source of inspiration** and **intellectual nourishment** for our European democracies.

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From the very beginning, cinema was torn between individual expression and speculative output. Driven by technological developments in streaming, social media and artificial intelligence, sterile content has exploded in recent years, while **artistic freedom and personal cinema is under pressure as never before.**

Why the European Union would want to reduce its support for independent cinema in such a time is beyond comprehension. As filmmakers, **we need reliable, trusting partners** - and Agora in its current form lacks the necessary commitment to independent cinema.

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