

Communiqué de presse, Cannes, 23 May 2013

No more territorialisation? No more Regional Funds!

Cine-Regio has expressed surprise and concern about the content of the new draft Cinema Communication and it is frustrated by the lack of action from most Member States, which risks a serious loss of influence over future film policies at European, national and regional level

Cine-Regio's 8th General Assembly during the 66th Festival de Cannes discussed two topics, which challenge the right of European regions to contribute to Europe's cultural diversity.

Firstly, the majority of Member States on 14th June are planning to accept the European Commission's decision to include the audiovisual sector in the EU-US free trade agreement negotiations. This represents a total shift in EU policy!

For regional film funds, this change threatens not just our commitment to film but to the wider development of a dynamic, forward-thinking and audience-centred audiovisual sector. The Commission's move will put the interests of US-based globalised multinationals before those of a culturally-diverse Europe and of European citizens.

Secondly, the Commission's new draft Cinema Communication released on 30th April has left us surprised and concerned. There has been a significant and worrying shift from the previous drafts and dialogue of the last 18 months, particularly on the question of territorialisation.

Cine-Regio has actively and constructively engaged in the discussions about the Communication and welcomes the Commission's recognition of the regional dimension of film culture and its explicit reference to regional culture. And yet the draft actually threatens what it says it supports.

The draft text makes it difficult for regional agencies to justify the use of taxpayer's money to support cultural output, because it would take away the right to ensure that aid granted to production companies is used to develop and nurture the audiovisual sector in the region granting the aid.

For Cine-Regio, the members of Cine-Regio and the citizens in our regions, one of the great strengths of Europe is its investment in films of high artistic value; in the exploration and nurturing of new talent; and in cinematic innovation.

Many European co-productions – including many of the European films selected for Cannes Film Festival – exist only because of the great diversity of support schemes. It is important to understand that without territorialisation those schemes would be lost.

In short, territorialisation is an essential to cultural output. The way European regions chose to implement their cultural policy should be decided by themselves – as guaranteed in the Treaty by article 107.3 (d) TFEU.

At Cine-Regio's 8th General Assembly **three new board members were elected and the chairman announced.**

The three new board members elected for a two-year term until May 2015:

Vienna Film Fund / Mrs. Gerlinde Seitner (Austria)

Film i Väst / Mrs. Katarina Krave (Sweden)

Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung / Mr. Manfred Schmidt (Germany)

Chairman May 2013-May 2014: Wallimage / Mr. Philippe Reynaert (Belgium)

Charlotte Appelgren, General Secretary of Cine-Regio:

"It is with great pleasure that Mr Philippe Reynaert has agreed to one more term as chairman of Cine-Regio. Mr Philippe Reynaert has extensive experience in establishing and operating a successful & innovative regional film fund. Such competencies are of high value when Cine-Regio over the next 12 month will be putting in place our strategy for CineRegio 2020, where our vision is to strengthen the identity of the European regions in a global context." Charlotte Appelgren continues: *"Global development without regional development is not sustainable. Local and regional territories increasingly play a crucial role in sustaining Europe's culture. In a world that is becoming more and more global and complex, the threat of losing the regional identity to a uniform and grey world is constantly present. Supporting film culture is therefore increasingly important and it contributes to preserving a heterogeneous society".*

Cine-Regio is an independent non-profit association. Cine-Regio acts as a lobby and network organisation encouraging cross-border and interregional co-operation and co-productions. The network is continuously expanding and today counts 40 regional film funds from 16 countries in Europe, which together represent total 165 million euro per year in film support.

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