



Communiqué de presse, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## **Cine-Regio welcomes the adoption of the new Communication on State aid for films and other audio-visual works**

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*"I will make sure that the territorial linking of the aid in the final proposal will be such as to strike the right balance between the European dimension of our cinema industry and the preservation of its more local resources and skills"* states Vice-President of the European Commission Joaquín Almunia in a letter to Cine-Regio.

We, Cine-Regio, the European Network of Regional Film Funds, welcomes the adoption of the new Cinema Communication on State aid for films and other audio-visual works.

With the letter from Vice-President Almunia and the new text of the Cinema Communication, the main concerns of Cine-Regio – being the topic of territorialisation and the right of the European regions to decide themselves on their cultural policy - has been addressed.

Mr. Philippe Reynaert, Chairman of Cine-Regio: *"I am delighted about the Commission's recognition of the regional dimension of film culture and its explicit reference to regional culture in the new text"*.

The 2001 Cinema Communication only referred to national cultural criteria and Member States without taking into account the role of regional funds, as well as their competences in the field.

*"With this Cinema Communication we have a clear local/regional reference and the new text allows regions to demand a certain amount to be spent on local goods, services and work to be defined by them. Indeed territorialisation has positive effects, particularly as regards the preservation of cultural identities, the creation of a critical mass of audio-visual activities and the solidarity between regions, mainly through the facilitation of co-production projects,"* states General Secretary of Cine-Regio, Mrs. Charlotte Appelgren.

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*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 a total funding capital of €165M per year to support film culture*