

Long Night of European Music

At the initiative of the Slovak Institute in Vienna, currently presiding the EUNIC Vienna Cluster, a concert entitled Long Night of European Music took place in Vienna's famous Museums' Quartier on June 21st. The concert was co-organized by ECSA's member network of contemporary music composers, the European Composers' Forum and the Vienna Cluster of EUNIC.



The event included premières of the European Contemporary Composers' Orchestra under Jürgen Bruns (GER) - with works by H. Heher (AUT), T. Räisänen (FIN), A. Giorgobiani (GEO), S. Azevedo (POR), C. Sojar Voglar (SLO) und L'. Cekovská (SVK). J.-C. Risset (FRA), A. Eliasson (SWE), and D. Torkewitz (DE). Contributed with innovative and experimental sounds. Each composition was accompanied by a literary piece selected and presented by the Mercedes Echerer (AT).

European Parliament – busy days for ECSA

June 15th:

Composer John Groves and ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager met with members of the European Parliament Marielle Schaake (Liberals) and Helga Trüpel (Greens) on June 15 in Brussels. The meeting, which took place in a very co-operative atmosphere, proved to be an excellent opportunity to exchange views on authors' rights and their challenges in the digital age. Speaking on behalf of ECSA, Mr. Groves highlighted the utmost importance of authors' rights for creators as they provide a safety net without which composers would be critically disadvantaged in any commercial environment. Mr. Groves also stressed the importance of authors' rights management societies as being essential in order to pursue a profession as composer or songwriter.

June 28th:

Evelyn Regner (S&Ds), Vice-President of the JURI Committee received ECSA Secretary General Patrick Ager to discuss ECSA's position regarding authors' rights and their collective management. Mr. Ager set out that these societies exist to serve their members – composers and songwriters, and that it is crucial not to throw composers and performers in one basket, as it is frequently the case. Both, Ms Regner and Patrick Ager agreed to stay in close contact.



Conferences and Roundtables in the European Parliament

Two interesting conferences took place at end of June in the European Parliament. The first one, entitled "Copyright and Intellectual Property in the Digital Age" (June 29th), was organized by the Socialists and Democrats. The second one, "Is it possible to compete with free?" (June 30th), was initiated by the grouping of Liberals and Democrats.

Both events dealt with the challenges of authors' rights in the digital age.

ECSA representatives attended both conferences and took the floor on behalf of creators.

Freedom of Expression – a crucial right for composers and songwriters

Freemuse – the organization for freedom of expression for musicians and composers - is in the process of inviting key international artists' organizations to Copenhagen with the aim to create a global network for the protection of artistic freedom of expression.

The 'Copenhagen Summit on Artistic Freedom of Expression – *Artsfex*' is scheduled to take place on 9-11 December 2011. The summit is made possible through a £30,000 (DKK 250,000) grant from the Danish Ministry of Culture. Alfons Karabuda has been invited to participate at the Summit in his capacity of ECSA's Chairman.