



Fédération Européenne des Réalisateur de l'Audiovisuel
Federation of European Film Directors

Representing the rights of European Directors and
defending the cultural significance of audiovisual works

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Ms Christina KALLAS
President
Federation of Scriptwriters in Europe
c/o UNI-Europa Box 9
31 rue de l'Hôpital
B - 1000 Brussels

Brussels, February 20, 2007

Dear Christina Kallas,

Thank you for sending FERA the European Screenwriters Manifesto adopted on November 2006 in Greece.

I have circulated the text to the 32 associations' members of FERA in 28 countries. There is a general consensus that, for a number of reasons which vary from country to country, FERA cannot endorse your manifesto.

FERA does fully recognise the screenwriter as the author of the screenplay and as a co-author of the audiovisual work. FERA also recognises FSE right to fight for improved rights, recognition and working conditions for screenwriters, much as FERA is doing for directors. However we would like to draw your attention to the risk to the creative, artistic integrity of audiovisual works and the common fragile position of all authors in the audiovisual sector, by emphasizing antagonisms between screenwriters and directors that ultimately only benefit producers or broadcasters.

European organisations should avoid generalizing at a European level local battles or differences of opinion. Neither of our organisations have anything to gain from a public clash between European screenwriters and directors. Our organisations should rather concentrate on important urgent issues such as safeguarding intellectual property rights and remuneration for authors in the exploitation of new media formats and services.

I stay at your disposal for any future cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Cécile Despringre
CEO of FERA

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