

DRAFT MINUTES

The draft minutes of the FSE AGM 2024 will be circulated to the members after the meeting, within a maximum of two months. Members will have, within a one-month deadline, the possibility to comment on the draft minutes. The final version of the minutes will be approved by the Full Members at the next General Assembly.

INITIAL AGENDA

sent by email to the Full and Candidate Members prior to the AGM.

- Item 1. Approval of the agenda of FSE AGM 2024
- Item 2. Approval of the minutes of FSE AGM 2023
- First impressions on WCOS 2024 Galway
- Item 3. Executive Committee's Activity Report
- since the FSE AGM 2023
- Item 4. Intermediary financial report
- Item 5. Budget 2025 and Fee structure 2025
- Item 6. New FSE Internal Rules
- Item 7. Focus on main lobbying and campaigning activities
- Item 8. Discussion on projects and policy priorities for the coming years
- Item 9. Most important news from the member guilds

QUORUM

- FSE has 26 Full Members in 23 countries. Candidate Members do not vote.
- There are 2 votes per country. Total: 46 votes
- All the Full Members not represented during the votes gave a proxy to another Full Member, except Greece. Total number of the votes at the FSE AGM 2024: 44 votes.

All the decisions were taken unanimously, except the vote on the motion to take off a statement from the website.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

See in annexes

Summary of the discussions and main decisions

MORNING

Carolin Otto (FSE president) welcomed the participants.

Item 1. Approval of the agenda of FSE AGM 2024

Introduction of new items

The FSE AGM began with the approval of the agenda of the general assembly. However some guilds proposed to address new items, including new rules about political statements issued by the FSE. The debate was referring mainly to a statement issued in October 2023 in support of the Israel writers, published on the FSE website, without a clear consultation of the members, and which some members found contradictory to FSE's goals. The removal of this statement from the FSE website was discussed, with varying opinions on whether it should be reinstated (FSE staff had taken it out temporarily the evening before due to protests in front on the hotel and online, until an official decision was made).

FSE President Carolin Otto emphasized the importance of solidarity with Israeli writers and questioned the role of the Executive Committee and of the President in making statements. Several guilds expressed that FSE should not make political statements, and any public declarations should strictly concern screenwriters and screenwriting issues. The meeting included discussions on amending the draft internal rules to clarify the decision-making process regarding statement policies, ensuring they align with FSE's mission and member consensus.

There were suggestions to establish a working group to refine the internal rules and statement policy.

The general assembly agreed to move **Item 6** of the initial agenda on **New FSE Internal Rules** to the end of the agenda, and that this point would include an amendment to rule on statements, and a vote to agree whether to remove or not the statement of October 2023 from the website.

>> The revised agenda was unanimously approved.

Item 3. Executive Committee's Activity Report since the FSE AGM 2023

Amélie Clément (FSE coordinator) presented the annual activity report, highlighting achievements and challenges over the past year.

>> The activity report was unanimously approved.

Item 7. Focus on main lobbying and campaigning activities

Denis Goulette (FSE délégué général) updated the members on three main policy issues and future campaigns:

1. Copyright Directive – its implementation across Europe, and the challenges in ensuring fair remuneration for screenwriters (proportionate and appropriate).
2. AVMSD Directive

3. AI – EU code of practice / green database based on a new ISO standard. AI's impact on the industry was discussed, with emphasis on the need for regulation, ethical use, and protection of screenwriters' rights in the face of rapid technological advancements.

Item 4. Intermediary financial report

Item 5. Budget 2025 and Fee structure 2025

Amélie Clément presented the intermediary financial report, budget and fee structure. She highlighted challenges due to the fee structure and the need for new income sources to support FSE projects.

The final financial results (to be closed on 31 December 2024) will be presented, discussed and approved by the general assembly before June 2025. The presentation of the accounts will be improved to facilitate comparison between the year before, the current year, the year after, as suggested by a participant.

First impressions on WCOS 2024 Galway

There were expressions of gratitude to the organizers of the World Conference of Screenwriters, in particular to Jennifer Davidson; reflections on the event's success, and a call for continued collaboration among guilds (in particular how to best share the contacts so the participants can easily stay in touch with each other).

Item 2. Approval of the minutes of FSE AGM 2023

Ana Pineda proposed to revise Item 11 of the minutes of the FSE AGM 2023 to record a comment from Josep Gatell. Denis Goulette proposed to ALMA to amend the minutes as follows:

Item 11 / New annual membership fee structure

Amélie Clément presented the new fee structure and explained its origin.

A few participants expressed views. In particular, Josep Gatell (on behalf of ALMA) said that ALMA totally understand that they need to raise more money and they are happy to raise the fee, but we should establish some objective criteria to evaluate the 3-year plan within three years, because it's quite an effort to them to raise their fees.

David Kavanagh stated that Josep's idea of a regular evaluation of how this has worked was really a good idea and an organized arrangement to reexamine the situation on a regular basis should be put in place.

No vote was taken on this proposal.

The AGM then took the following decisions:

- *The general assembly unanimously approved the goal to reach 60 000 euros per year in membership fees (full and candidate members).*
- *The general assembly unanimously approved the principle of having 6 levels of fees*
- *The general assembly unanimously approved the 3 criteria used to determine which fee a guild will pay.*

FSE will propose a way to reexamine the situation of each guild regularly.

FSE will take into account new information from a few guilds to establish the exact amount of the fees for the year 2024.

>> The minutes, including the amendment, were unanimously approved by the general assembly.

AFTERNOON

Item 6. Internal Rules. Proposed amendment.

In order to take account of the criticisms made by certain members at the start of the AGM (under Item 1. Approval of the agenda of FSE AGM 2024), Denis Goulette proposed that FSE's Executive Committee and President only make public statements related to screenwriters' working conditions and objectives in the FSE statutes.

Lesley Gannon from the UK highlighted the difference between taking a position and making a public statement, emphasizing the necessity of consultation with members before issuing a public statement. Various delegates discussed whether the focus on working conditions might be too restrictive and suggest refining the language for clarity. They also discussed how to deal with urgent situations, that require specific procedures.

The importance of trust in the executive committee and president was debated, with some members feeling the restrictions imply mistrust. There was a proposal to positively frame the policy, delegating authority with specific restrictions.

The General Meeting resolved to amend Article IV.2.c of the draft Internal Rules on the agenda as follows:

c) Decisions

Article IV.1 of the Statutes list the main responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, the General Delegate and the President of the FSE are entitled to make public statements on behalf of the FSE only on subjects strictly related to the rights and working conditions of screenwriters, and in strict relation to the objectives defined in article 1.3 of the Statutes.

The Executive Committee of the FSE is also responsible for proposing to the General Assembly political strategies and projects in pursuit of the aims of the FSE and to implement the political decisions made by the General Assembly.

The main decisions of the Executive Committee are recorded in minutes or meeting notes. The documents are available to the Full members upon request.

>> This amendment was approved unanimously.

There was no official vote to approve the Internal Rules as a whole.

Motion to take off a statement from the website

>> **The General Assembly resolved to delete the statement “Solidarity with screenwriters in Israel” published on 16 October 2023 on the FSE website, with the majority in favor**, showcasing a structured voting process country by country. 34 in favor of the motion, 5 against, 5 abstention (total 44 votes).

WCOS in Rome in 2027

Francesca Massaro introduced a proposal from the Writers Guild Italia to host the next World Conference of Screenwriters in Rome in 2027, emphasizing the need for alignment with IAWG schedule (if another conference is organized, it will not be possible for IAWG to get involved in this project before 2027). Jennifer Davidson, who organised the conference in Galway and who is also IAWG Chair, suggested a conversation internally in the FSE and then with the IAWG to cover several issues (timing, money, organisation). In particular, she made some planning and timing considerations (proposal to move the conference to a later date to avoid problems of organisation and coordination with all parties during Summer holidays). The general assembly warmly welcomed the project of the Writers Guild of Italy to host the next world conference.

News from member guilds

Updates on national guild activities included Iceland's new legal advice offering and Poland's implementation of the copyright directive.

A debate on AI usage in screenwriting revealing differing views on its ethical use and the necessity of understanding AI tools. Jennifer Davidson reminded the IAWG/FSE position on AI. The meeting concluded with acknowledgments of the complexity of AI issues and encouragement for ongoing collaboration within the guilds.

End of the meeting

Annexes

- List of participants
- Revised minutes of FSE AGM 2023

Annual reports from the guilds

They are available in the members' area of the FSE website :

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/login/>

Each guild received a username and password. Please contact Amélie Clément office@federationscreenwriters.eu if you cannot find this login information anymore.

