



THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS (FIM), THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ACTORS (FIA) and THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF PERFORMING ARTISTS (GIART)

call for the adoption of the Directive extending the term of protection for performers' rights and sound recordings

April 16th, 2009

An essential debate is currently taking place at European level about the extension of the term of protection of the intellectual property rights of performers. This Directive is of extreme importance to them. Due to longer life expectancy, an increasing number of artists who started their career early in their lifetime lose all rights at a time when they most need this protection.

The International Federation of Musicians (FIM), the International Federation of Actors (FIA) and the International Organisation of Performing Artists (GIART) have taken a significant part in this debate since its inception, so as to make sure that all performers can actually benefit from a term extension. They believe that the proposal, as amended by the JURI Committee of the European Parliament on February 12th 2009, already represented an acceptable settlement, although – very regrettably – it did not also cover the audiovisual sector.

In its article 1b, the Parliament's compromise text (proposed in triologue on March 31st) paves the way for a further inclusion of the latter, based on an impact assessment to be made by the European Commission by early 2010. It also makes the accompanying measures permanent instead of purely transitional, which represents a clear improvement of the original draft in favour of performers.

FIM, FIA and GIART are convinced that a consensus is now within reach in the Council, as well as between the latter and the Parliament. They see the compromise text proposed by the Parliament as a unique opportunity to close the debate in a balanced way, contributing to the strengthening of the music sector as a whole and opening new perspectives also for performers in the audiovisual sector in a near future.

FIM, FIA and GIART therefore call upon the Members of the Parliament to support this compromise text on First Reading without further amendments and the Governments of Member States not to oppose such a consensus, but rather to reaffirm their support for artists by easing the adoption of this Directive.

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The International Federation of Musicians (FIM) is an international non-governmental organisation representing musicians' trade unions, guilds and associations in about 65 countries covering all regions of the world, which enables it to speak for hundreds of thousands of musicians. In the European Union, the European group of FIM counts 26 musician trade unions from 21 EU Member States, working both in live performance and in the recorded media.

The International Federation of Actors (FIA) is an international non-governmental organisation representing more than 100 performers' trade unions, guilds and associations around the world. The European group of FIA represents professional trade unions of performers in 23 EU Member States, in the European Economic Area and Switzerland, working both in live performance and in the recorded media.

GIART is an international organisation for performing artists composed of the European Collecting Societies of performers' rights whose purpose is to defend and to promote the intellectual property rights of performing artists at European and international level.