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**COALITION CURRENTS: NEWSLETTER # 7**

This is the 7th UKCCD's newsletter to members. Please send us information or links with specific relevance to Convention/Coalition objectives & agendas which you wish to share. Please mark "newsletter" in subject box and send to ukccd1@gmail.com

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**1. UKCCD - Commonwealth Foundation Seminar: International Development and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions - Nov 6th 2008: Success in diversifying and informing the debate on culture.**

Thank you to all who could attend. This seminar was convened to inform and identify key agencies to play an active role in promoting the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005, and in particular with regard to the needs of the developing world and the provisions of Article 16, which calls on all signatories to take initiative in furthering greater exchange and cooperation.

Attached please find Holly Aylett's Keynote and the UKCCD's Recommendations for further action which were circulated to the International Federation of Coalitions in time for them to inform the proposals of Civil Society to the 2nd Intergovernmental Committee Meeting in Paris, December 6th 2008 (see below).

[http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/press/frontpage/20022008a\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/press/frontpage/20022008a_en.htm)  
<http://www.europe.org.uk/culture/>

**2. Intergovernmental Committee Meeting, UNESCO Paris, December 2008: Preferential Treatment Discussion Triggers Debate on 2005 Convention's Relationship to WTO.**

The relationship of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions to trade agreements may not have been officially on the agenda for the December meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, but it nevertheless surfaced as a major source of discussion before the meeting had come to a close. The trigger for the discussion was a debate on Article 16--which commits developing countries to take actions to accord preferential treatment to artists and cultural professionals from the developing world, and to similarly act to improve the circulation of cultural goods and services coming from developing countries.

The question of how to make good on this commitment inevitably raises the question whether the approaches to be taken within the still-to-be-drafted operational guidelines for Article 16 will create overlap with the World Trade Organization

(WTO). The initial debate on this theme--enriched by six experts' reports on the issue--revealed that at this stage States on the Intergovernmental Committee have quite different perspective on how best to deal with this question.

*For more information, documents and reports:*

[http://www.cdc-ccd.org/main\\_pages\\_en/Publications\\_en/Communiqués\\_en/2008/IC\\_20081208\\_Recap\\_en.html](http://www.cdc-ccd.org/main_pages_en/Publications_en/Communiqués_en/2008/IC_20081208_Recap_en.html)

### **3. First film festival in Central and Eastern Europe – Nov 7h –14th2008: Inter-European dialogue.**

This year will be held on First Film Festival in Central and Eastern Europe "EAST OF LIMA", thanks to the efforts of Kchina Films and the University of Lima, in coordination with the French association A l'est, du nouveau. In this way, from 07 to Nov. 14 will present a significant sample of the filmography of Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, which aims to bring the public to the Peruvian term of the tradition and work in a film that is made with little budget but great creativity in the countries that make up the other side of Europe.

For more information on the World Cinema Alliance and other events please see: <http://www.cinema-alliance.org/index.php>

### **4. European Parliament's Cultural Diversity Days: Encounter between the European Union and the United States, December 2nd 2008.**

The Culture Committee of the European Parliament organised the second edition of the European Parliament Cultural Diversity Days on 2 December in Brussels and invited the President of FERA, István Szabó, to take part in the event focused on "Cultural Diversity: Encounters between the European Union and the United States". The first part of the programme was dedicated to European and US cultural policies. Louise Oliver, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to UNESCO, spoke for the first time publicly on the negotiations on the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In the second part, on the economics of culture in question, István Szabó underlined the role of the cinema for the expression of identities, the responsibility of content providers, the need to address piracy and author's rights issues in the cultural field. Luciana Castellina, former Chairwoman of the Culture Committee in the 90s, reiterated the core of the UNESCO Convention. Finally, Ambassador Oliver welcomed the atmosphere of a debate with mutual understanding and respect, stating that the US and Europe, with different systems, approaches and different ways of achieving a common goal, share the goal of global diversity of culture.

Retrieved from:

<http://www.ferainfo.org/newsletters/10FERANewsletterJan2009EN.pdf>

Newsletter of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/200812/20081212ATT44412/20081212A TT44412EN.pdf>

## **5. Publication of Putting Culture First: Commonwealth Perspectives on Culture and Development, 4th, December 2009.**

Commonwealth Foundation published a new study: Putting Culture First, written by Andrew Firmin and Mark Nowotny. This publication is the product of extensive consultation with representatives from government and civil society, and culture and development sectors across the Commonwealth. It is the first attempt at the Commonwealth level to demonstrate the links between culture and development and provide recognition and support for these connections. This publication takes as its starting point the notion that culture is a fundamental component of sustainable development, and asks us to consider the implications of this approach. The research presented argues that governments can better hope to meet and exceed the targets of the Millennium Development Goals if they take issues of culture and cultural expression into consideration, and work to engage these issues in development strategies.

For more information:

[http://www.cdccd.org/main\\_pages\\_en/Publications\\_en/Communiqués\\_en/2008/CommonwealthPublication\\_PuttingCultureFirst\\_en.html](http://www.cdccd.org/main_pages_en/Publications_en/Communiqués_en/2008/CommonwealthPublication_PuttingCultureFirst_en.html)

For a PDF version of the research:

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/culturediversity/Research/>

## **6. UNITED NATIONS - UN General Assembly adopts Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) – Dec 10th 2008.**

The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was marked on 10 December 2008 by the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Its adoption will allow individuals or groups (or NGOs acting on their behalf) to file complaints against violations of the ICESCR for the first time at the international level.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.opicescrcoalition.org/OptionalProtocol.pdf.pdf>

## **7. Asia – Europe Meeting (ASEM) on Cultural Diversity on 15-16 December 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam.**

The European Commission and Vietnamese authorities jointly organised an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) seminar on the theme "Preserving and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions: sharing Asian and European experiences" on 15-16 December 2008 in Hanoi. The seminar aimed at exchanging experiences and points of view on questions related to the diversity of cultural expressions, including the ratification and implementation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. It was meant to be an open platform for discussions between officials, decision-makers as well as representatives of civil society active in the field of culture, from both Europe and Asia. The European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity were represented by Claude Michel of the French Coalition and Christine Merkel of the German Coalition.

EC Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news1759\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news1759_en.htm)

FERA: <http://www.ferainfo.org/newsletters/10FERANewsletterJan2009EN.pdf>

## **8. UK-India film co-production treaty launched, December 2008.**

After many years of deliberations, the UK -India co-production treaty has finally been ratified. Under the treaty, co-productions will get national status and therefore will be able to access tax credits in the UK. British films shooting in India will be able to cut through red tape under a new single window application scheme. The Indian film industry makes more than 1,000 films a year and the international market for Indian film was valued at \$25.8 billion in 2006. The treaty will help British filmmakers to break into this expanding market. In turn, the UK is a favoured shooting location for Indian films. Last year Hindi films accounted for 10% of all releases in the UK.

Cineuropa article:

<http://www.cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=87429>

Retrieved from:

<http://www.ferainfo.org/newsletters/9FERANewsletterDec2008.pdf>

## **9. UKFC launches multilingual film search engine.**

The UK Film Council has launched the free film search engine FindAnyFilm.com which allows users to search legally any film in any format around the UK. Based on the Google Search technology and aggregates data from over 1,200 different sources, FindAnyFilm has already 30,000 film records in different languages and is daily up-dated. FindAnyFilm features films available for viewing in the UK: this could be a retail purchase, ticket purchase, or viewing via digital download/streaming. According to Peter Buckingham, head of Distribution and Exhibition at the UKFC, "the website is the fastest place to find a film to watch in any format, if it's legally available in the UK".

<http://www.cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=89628>

## **10. The New MEDIA MUNDUS Programme (2011-2013): Cultural partnership between European and developing countries filmmakers.**

On 9 January, the European Commission adopted the new MEDIA MUNDUS programme, a broad international cooperation programme for the audiovisual industry to strengthen cultural and commercial relations between Europe's film industry and filmmakers of third countries. The EU will provide €15 million of funding for 2011-2013 for projects submitted by audiovisual professionals from the EU and third countries. Cooperation with the European film industry is in strong demand around the globe as shown by the initial success of the MEDIA International Preparatory Action under which the EU provided €2 million of funding in 2008 for 18 projects involving international partners.

Extracted from:

<http://www.ferainfo.org/newsletters/11FERANewsletter%20Feb2009EN.pdf>

Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/26&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Cineuropa Article:

<http://www.cineuropa.org/newsdetail.aspx?lang=en&documentID=89036>

### **11. European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education meeting, January, 19th -20th, 2009, Brussels: Inclusion of migrant communities through film and multilingualism.**

Among the issues discussed is an expansion of the Observatory activities, online audiovisual activities for example as well as participation from outside the committee. Security of online material, the inclusion of migrant communities through film and which way multilingualism may contribute to that.

To access further reports, suggestions and other committee meeting documents as well as dates of future meetings please see:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=1&view=att&th=11f21e4bff712136&attid=0.1&disp=vah&zw>

### **12. Last meeting of the Creative Content Online Platform on January, 21st with the participation of Christian Carion, French film director: Focus on issues of Cultural Diversity.**

The Creative Content Online Platform, an initiative of Commissioner Reding to discuss, with selected national experts, the topics that arose from the 2008 Creative Content Online Communication and public consultation, held its 5th and the last meeting on 21 January on cultural diversity. For the first time, a film director participated in the discussion (Christian Carion, French film director member of ARP). The European Commission will publish a report of the work of the Creative Content Online Platform in March. Contrary to what was announced last year, no legislative initiative is expected in 2009.

European Commission webpage dealing with Content Online:

[http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/other\\_actions/content\\_online/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/other_actions/content_online/index_en.htm)

### **13. Information meeting of the civil society on the Cultural Cooperation Protocol with Korea on 26 January, 2009.**

Following letters sent by the European cultural and audiovisual organisations to the European Commission which expressed concerns about the negotiation of a cultural cooperation protocol between the EU and Korea as part of the bilateral trade agreement currently under negotiation by DG Trade, the European Commission organised a meeting with civil society to inform it about the negotiation process and present them the provisions of the protocol which is under discussion. Most of the organisations represented at the meeting, including FERA and the European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, reiterated their concerns and asked for the disconnection of the negotiation of the bilateral trade agreement on one hand and of the protocol on the other hand, in order to respect the autonomy of cul-

tural negotiations. The current method of negotiation implemented by GD Trade which mixes the two, include cultural and audiovisual aspects in a global negotiation which would allow a trade off between the audiovisual sector and other economic fields. The European Commission currently pressures Member States to conclude this negotiation rapidly.

Retrieved from: French Coalition for Cultural Diversity Press Release:  
<http://www.coalitionfrancaise.org/actus/communiqués.php?r=&sr=comm>

#### **14. Assemblée Nationale will hold a debate on cultural works on the Internet, as a follow up to the one which took place In October 2008. The debate begins on 4 March 2009.**

The law proposes to create a High Authority for the distribution of works and the protection of rights on the Internet. Its composition and its functioning will be based on the principles of independence, impartiality and confidentiality.

It is proposed that the High Authority will issue a graduated response to Internet piracy. The first warning will take the form of a letter; the second will be a registered letter to ensure the subscriber is definitely aware of the infraction. This was proposed further to an opinion poll which found 90% of people warned would stop illegal downloading on receipt of the 2nd message.

In the case of continued illegal downloading, sanctions for the internet subscriber's infraction will range from the suspension of subscription for 3 months to one year, less than penal sanctions, to 3 years in prison to a 300.000 euros fine. Users of the Internet can significantly reduce the penalty by accepting a transaction in which they undertake not to repeat their behavior.

<http://www.assembleenationale.org/index.asp>

#### **15. Audiovisual Policies in Member States: Adoption of the French law banning advertising from French public TV, February 4th 2009.**

The French Parliament has finally adopted the law banning advertising from French State televisions with 175 votes in favor and 66 against. As the law was not formally adopted before the 5 January deadline, the measure to ban advertising on prime time has been decided by the Executive Committee of France Television under the pressure of the government. Based on BBC model, the law provides that advertising will be completely abolished by 2011. The loss of funds (around €800m which would be transferred to private stations) would be recuperated by taxing commercial television publicity income (3%) and introducing a tax on Internet and telephone providers (0.9%), resulting in €450m of funding for 2009.

Press Articles: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jan/10/france.advertising>  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/fury-in-france-as-sarkozy-bans-adverts-from-state-tv-1225812.html>  
<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,3932880,00.html>

#### **16. Seminar: The European Commission Cultural Agenda - The Culture**

**Programme (2007 - 2013): How to Write Projects Funded by the Main European Financial Instrument Supporting Cross - Cultural Cooperation in Europe – Feb 5th-6th 2009.**

The European Commission has again placed Cultural Diversity at center stage by investing in cross-cultural cooperation. The seminar, designed for public officials, staff of international organizations, cultural associations, Universities, NGO's and interested parties involved in developing projects, programme and strategies on cultural cooperation, will give a broad overview of the European Cultural Programme (2007-2013). In particular the course will present in details the three strands supported by the programme as well as the financial regulation and a technical guide to present the relevant proposals. The participants will be provided with all the necessary information and tools relevant to play an active role in this context.

For further information on other European Institute seminars, how to participate, fees etc please see: <http://www.eipa.eu/en/activities/show/&tid=3054>

**17. The International NGOs' workshop on Development Financing, from 16th to 19th February 2009 in New York, United States of America, (U.S.A.).**

The Stone Foundation is pleased to announce The International NGOs' workshop on Development Financing that will bring together 314 representatives of NGOs/CBOs from all over the world is scheduled from 16th to 19th February 2009 in New York, United States of America, (U.S.A.).

For further information please see: [www.stonefoundationintl.org](http://www.stonefoundationintl.org)

**18. The European Commission launches a study on multi -territorial licensing for the online distribution of audiovisual works in the European Union: Focus on Cultural Dialogue.**

KEA (Kern European Affairs) in partnership with Armines has been selected by the European Commission to conduct a study on multi-territorial licensing for the online distribution of audiovisual works, which has been identified in the 2008 Communication on Creative Content Online as one of the main horizontal challenges. According to the European Commission, the current licensing system requires individual copyright agreements for each Member State despite an online environment which allows content services to be made available in different territories or, indeed across the whole of Europe. The objectives of the study are mainly to assess the cardinal challenges for the development of a multi-territory distribution business model, to analyse its economic and cultural consequences and to indicate policy options aiming at fostering such development. The draft study report will be presented by the contractor to stakeholders during a one day workshop towards the end of 2009. The final report is due for the first semester of 2010.

European Commission Announcement:

[http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/info\\_centre/library/studies/index\\_en.htm#eurworks](http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/info_centre/library/studies/index_en.htm#eurworks)

## **19. Top artists battle visa clampdown, 27th February 2009: Cultural Diversity and the Arts.**

Leading figures from the art world, including Antony Gormley and Nicholas Hytner, have launched a campaign to reverse stringent visa controls which they claim are preventing top foreign musicians, actors and artists from visiting Britain. They say that immigration laws introduced last year are restricting artistic freedom and have called on the Home Office to review them. The visa legislation has tightened up the requirements for all professionals travelling to Britain from outside the EU in order to perform or take part in an arts event.

For more information and links to the campaign:

*<http://news.ippimail.com/2009/02/21/top-artists-battle-visa-clampdown/>*