



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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1st meeting of the Bureau
Paris, 20-21 September 2012

Council of Europe Offices
55 Avenue Kléber, 75016 Paris

REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON CINEMATOGRAPHIC CO-PRODUCTION

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

The Bureau:

- **noted** the update on the Review of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production;
- **asked** the Bureau to follow closely the setting up of the priority work proposals for the Programme and Budget for 2014-2015.

BACKGROUND

The European Cinematographic Co-Production (ECCC) was opened to signature on 2 October 1992 and entered into force on 1 April 1994 and has been ratified by 43 Council of Europe member States. The main objective of the Convention was to foster co-operation amongst the member States by setting minimum standard provisions aimed at facilitating the establishment of cinema co-productions.

Following the Cracow Council of Europe Film Policy Forum on “Shaping Policies for the cinema of tomorrow” in 2008, the CDCULT underlined at its last plenary meeting in May 2011 the importance of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production and its potential review in order to update this instrument in view of recent developments in the sector. CDCULT delegates agreed on the principle of the revision work and the production of a study and draft roadmap for a Convention review. They mandated the Bureau to closely follow-up the potential review process and asked the Secretariat to proceed with the next steps, i.e., the preparation of a study on the possible revision of the Convention.

Subsequently, a tender was launched¹ and Mr Jonathan Olsberg, a British consultant, commissioned to conduct an assessment on the implementation of the ECCC. Mr Olsberg organised interviews with national public funds, competent national authorities (i.e., those authorities appointed nationally for the implementation of the Convention) and private professionals (producers and law firms specialized in assisting producers in negotiating international co-productions). In February 2012 Mr Olsberg submitted a report on “Evaluation and Proposed Revisions of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production”. The CDCPP took note of this study at its meeting in May 2012, as well as of the Explanatory Report on “Proposals for Modernisation of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production”.

PROGRESS

On the basis of the recommendations set out in the study on “Evaluation and Proposed Revisions of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production”, as well as of the Explanatory Report on “Proposals for Modernisation of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production”, the CDCPP decided at its meeting in May 2012 to proceed with the review of the Convention. It suggested to set up a group of national experts subject to approval by the Committee of Ministers. The Secretariat was meant to circulate a letter inviting CDCPP delegates to nominate these experts.

However, it became evident that no such Working Group can be set up within the current Budget and Programme of Activities 2012-13.

NEXT STEPS

The proposal to revise the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production will be included in the DGII priority work proposals and the Programme and Budget for 2014-2015. Subject to a favorable decision by the Secretary General and the Committee of Ministers, the review of the Convention will be ensured via the intergovernmental structures in pursuance of the applicable rules (Resolution(2011)24), by setting up of a subordinate committee to the CDCPP.

¹ Given the relevance of the issue for Eurimages, it was decided to involve the Fund in the preliminary study process; Eurimages has entirely financed the study by Mr Olsberg.