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MORE FILMS IN EUROPE

The growing standardisation of audiovisual productions, which threatens the cultural heritage of the smaller European countries, and the technical, financial and linguistic barriers to access to markets dominated by major companies are amongst the questions to be discussed at a COUNCIL OF EUROPE workshop in Hanasaari (near Helsinki in Finland) on 19 and 20 October.

The workshop will examine "The specific problems of the production and distribution of audiovisual works encountered in European countries with a low audiovisual output and limited geographic or linguistic coverage". It aims to come up with proposals for solutions to these problems to be addressed to Governments and the professional circles concerned.

The main points to be covered include:

- cultural aspects, in particular the place of linguistic and cultural minorities in programmes
- technical aspects, in particular the access of smaller countries to the new technologies and the language transfer techniques to be used (post synchronisation, subtitling or multilingual filming)
- financial aspects (how to increase the financing of production and distribution; coproduction or cofinancing, distribution by cofinancing or by exchange agreements).

The workshop will also deal with the training of those responsible for production and distribution.

The workshop will be opened by Finnish Education Minister Ole NORRBACK on Friday 19 October at 9h 00. Bernard BLIN, Chairman of the Select Committee of Experts on the production, distribution and marketing of European audiovisual works will also speak at the opening session.

Paul KOLLER, Chairman of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on the Mass Media will present the conclusions of the workshop on Saturday 20 October at 18h 00.

The 23 Council of Europe member states:

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

Les 23 Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe:

Autriche, Belgique, Chypre, Danemark, Finlande, France, République Fédérale d'Allemagne, Grèce, Islande, Irlande, Italie, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malte, Pays-Bas, Norvège, Portugal, Saint-Marin, Espagne, Suède, Suisse, Turquie, Royaume-Uni

INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS

Meeting venue: Hanasaari Cultural Centre (7 km from Helsinki)
Tel.: 358-0-461 566
Fax : 358-0-463 832

There will be a MEETING WITH THE PRESS on Friday 19 October at 11h 00 at the opening of the workshop.

The opening sessions, presentation of the conclusions and the closing of the workshop are OPEN TO THE PRESS.

A fully equipped press room, with telephones and telefax, will be available to journalists.

There will be interpretation into French and English.

Participants: About 100 experts and specialists from member states of the Council of Europe, observers from Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and related professional organisations.

The detailed programme, reports and conclusions can be obtained on the spot or by contacting the Council of Europe's Press Service (Christiane GRANDEL, tel: 88 41 25 63; telex 870943 F; telefax 88 41 27 90).

During the Seminar contact:

Mrs Jane DINSDALE, Head of Division, Human Rights Directorate,
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