



Belgique/Belgium: Association des Scénaristes de l'Audiovisuel and Scenaristengilde vzw **Bulgaria:** Bulgarian Association of Film, TV and Radio Scriptwriters – BAFTRS **Danmark:** Danske Dramatikeres Forbund...
Deutschland: Verband Deutscher Drehbuchautoren e.V. **Ελλάδα:** Ένωση Σεναριογράφων Ελλάδος **España:** Federación de Asociaciones de Guionistas del Audio-visual (FAGA), includes: Asociación Galega de Guionistas; Autores Literarios de Medios Audiovisuales; Escriptors Valencians de l'Audiovisual; Euskal Herriko Gidoigile Profesionalen Elkartea; Guionistes Associats de Catalunya **Finland:** Suomen Näytelmäkirjailijaliitto - Finlands Dramatikerförbund ry **France:** Union-Guilde des Scénaristes **Island:** Félag leikskálda og handritshöfundu **Ireland:** Irish Playwrights and Screenwriters Guild **Italia:** Scrittori Associati Cinema e Televisione **Nederland:** Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers **Norge:** Norske Dramatikeres Forbund **Portugal:** Associação Portuguesa de Argumentistas e Dramaturgos **Sweden:** Sveriges Dramatikerförbund **Serbia & Montenegro:** Nezavisnost **Suisse:** Scénario **Turkey:** SEN-DER, The Scriptwriters Association of Turkey **United Kingdom:** Writers' Guild of Great Britain

PRESS STATEMENT

One hundred and twenty five writers from all over Europe gathered in Thessaloniki on the 21st and 22nd November and committed to campaign for the implementation of a manifesto, which defines the role of the screenwriter in the twenty-first century, agreed at the conclusion of the meeting.

Speaking at the opening Wim Wenders, Chairman of the European Film Academy said that it was important to finally give the screenwriter his place.

The Conference, which took place in Thessaloniki on the 21st and 22nd of November, was attended by one hundred and twenty five writers from twenty two different European countries. Issues related to stories, rights and money were discussed.

The conference Chairperson and FSE President, writer Christina Kallas said in her opening speech that: 'It is writers who face the blank sheet and conjure out of nothing the stories that captivate the world. Everything else – producers, directors and distributors – come later. We are primary creators of the audiovisual work.'

During the opening session Mogens Rukov the writer of Festen said 'We make the story. We should be proud'.

Among the speakers was David Kipen, Director of Literature at the National Endowment for the Arts in the United States and author of 'The Schreiber Theory', which asserts that American film history can be better understood by concentrating on writers. He summed up the history of American cinema by saying that the first fifty years belonged to the producers, the second to the directors and the next will be for the writers. 'We are historically at a kind of a crossroads', he concluded, 'and this is only the warning shot'.

A manifesto was agreed (see attached) and those present committed to work towards the achievement of the goals set out in the document.

STATEMENT ENDS

For further information please contact: Pyrrhus Mercouris or national Guild

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