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l'Audiovisual + Euskal Herriko Gidoigile Profesionalen Elkartea + Guionistes Associats de Catalunya) & Autores Literarios de
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Scriptwriters Association of Turkey / United Kingdom Writers' Guild of Great Britain

The Barcelona Declaration

The European screenwriters' organisation FSE wishes to warn the leaders and the people of Europe of the potentially disastrous consequences of the economic crises for the creation and production of films and television programmes. The severe cuts we are experiencing will damage the creative climate, stifle cultural diversity and harm national economies throughout Europe.

Screenwriters are the storytellers of our time, able to comment on and illuminate the issues that face Europeans in these troubled times. Popular culture and entertainment are essential components of democracy, education and a full and rewarding life for every European citizen. More than this, every national and European investment in the arts, culture and literature increases the level of economic activity and financial as well as spiritual welfare.

Therefore the FSE urges the governments of Europe, as well as the European Parliament, Commission and Council, to abandon the short-sighted and self-defeating downward spiral of cuts and instead recognise that cultural diversity and creativity require enlightened support now more than ever.

We are losing financial support for developing scripts and facilitating production in our film industries and we are suffering smaller budgets for drama, comedy, documentaries and all scripted material in television, particularly public service television. In some countries the support has already been reduced to zero -- reports from Greece, Portugal, Spain and other countries are alarming.

At the General Assembly of the FSE in Barcelona this was illustrated in another way when delegates from some established screenwriters' organisations, were not able even to attend the meeting because of extreme economic pressure.

Federation of Screenwriters in Europe
Barcelona
8 November 2012

Fédération des Scénaristes d'Europe // Federation of Screenwriters in Europe

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