

Dear ECA members

5 of the Nordic artists' councils are organising the conference "TTIP and Culture" in Copenhagen on Monday September 1st.

Our applications to Nordic funds have recently been accepted and we are now busy finalising the programme. The invitation will be sent out by the end of this month. But considering that holidays are coming and that practical preparations often take time, we are sending you this mail as a kind of pre-invitation.

The conference aim is to educate ourselves - the artists organisations - and other actors in the culture sector. It aims to get into debt with how trade policies influences on the production of arts and culture in general, and especially in the perspective of the TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) that is being negotiated between EU and the US.

Among items to discuss are:

- The consequences if cultural and audiovisual services become part of TTIP. For the export by European creative and cultural industries. For film, literature, music etc.
- The relation between European authors' rights and Anglosachsian copyright.
- The consequences for cultural diversity in Europe.
- The UNESCO Convention on culture diversity in this respect
- The arguments for "the cultural exemption" in free trade negotiations
- Former experiences of trade agreements in relation to culture policies
- Culture in other bilateral agreements that are being negotiated by EU at present.

The conference will be opened by the Danish Minister of Trade and Development Mogens Jensen, and moderated by Swedish author America Vera-Zavala.

Confirmed speakers so far are:

- Håkan Bjerking, Swedish film director and president of FERA (the Federation of European film directors)
- Ludwig Laher, author and member of the UNESCO national commission of Austria and INCD.
- Peter Schønning, Danish lawyer with speciality on authors' rights/copyright.

We hope to have another two speakers confirmed within the coming week.

Although a Nordic conference, the language will be English. It will take place at Danish Architecture Centre in central Copenhagen from 12 to 6 pm. Due to support from Nordic Culture Point and the Nordic Culture Fund it is free to attend the conference.

However, you have to finance your travel and accommodation yourselves. Concerning hotel the Council of Danish Artists has an agreement with a nice hotel in the centre, and can help with reservation. If you make the reservation before 3rd July the price is 910 DKK (122 Euro). After this date there is no guarantee for rooms available at this reduced price.

The invitation will be sent to all of you as soon as possible, but in case you already know that you might be interested to attend, please let me know (mail: eca@eca.dk- ph. +45-35384401)

Yours sincerely, Elisabet Diedrichs,

On behalf of the Swedish Joint Committee for Artistic and Literary Professionals (KLYS),
Forum Artis, Finland, Kunstnernetverket, Norway, the Federation of Icelandic Artists (BIL)
and the Council of Danish Artists