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## COALITION CURRENTS: NEWSLETTER # 4

This is the 4th UKCCD's newsletter to members. Please send us information or links with specific relevance to Convention/Coalition objectives & agendas which you wish to share. Please mark "newsletter" in subject box and send to ukccd1@gmail.com

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**1. 24 to 27 June 08. The first extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.**

The meeting's purpose is to continue preparing the operational guidelines for the implementation of the Convention.

The Committee will discuss measures to promote and to protect cultural expressions as well as modalities for partnership between the public sector, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. It will also discuss the role and participation of civil society during a session, on 23 June, in which civil society and Parties to the Convention will exchange views\*. The Committee will additionally examine the use of the resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, intended to support cultural industries in developing countries and funded by voluntary contributions.

The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions seeks to strengthen the links between culture and sustainable development and to establish an innovative approach to international cooperation. It reaffirms the respect of human rights and fundamental liberties, the equal dignity of cultures, equitable access, and openness of cultures to the world. It has been ratified by 84 Parties: 83 countries and the European Community, signing as an organization of regional economic integration.

**2. 20 June 08. Academic Information Society Network discusses the UNESCO Convention on**

On the 20th June 08 a European network of audiovisual and other academics met at Exeter University on the invitation of Dr Alison Harcourt to discuss EU and international audiovisual regulation. Ms Harcourt presented a history of the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression. Her conclusion was that this Convention was adopted with great speed and reflected a desire for countries to protect their right to develop a cultural policy toolkit.

Dr Carole Tongue spoke for the UK Coalition for Cultural Diversity and gave evidence of strong grass roots cultural NGO input to the rapid adoption of the Convention. Gianapolo Scacco from the EU Commission described the development of EU cultural protocols adjacent to EU trade agreements saying that the nature of these protocols would be decided on a case by case basis. The EU was looking to improve the development of creative industries in developing countries and also cultural exchange between the EU and those partners.

This workshop was one of many covering subjects such as media ownership; the EU audiovisual media services directive and comparative audiovisual regulation. The results of the workshops, which were ESRC funded and based on the project "GLOBALIZATION, REGULATORY COMPETITION AND AUDIOVISUAL REGULATION IN 5 COUNTRIES", will be published shortly. For more information on the project please see:

<http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/disciplines/politics/research/avregulation/about/>

### **3. 18 and 19 June 08. The UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity, Paris, France.**

The Parisian mixed research unit on Comparative Law (CNRS/Université de Paris 1), directed by Mrs Hélène Ruiz Fabri, has organised a conference at the Sorbonne (Paris) on 18 and 19 June with the theme 'The UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity: Preliminary report and legal challenges in meeting the objectives in economically resource-poor countries.

We invite you to consult the preliminary programme (in French) to find information on the running of the event, registration options and to obtain other practical information. The participation of Mrs Christine Lagarde, Minister of the Economy, Finances and Employment of France, Mrs Christine Albanel, Minister of Culture and Communication of France, and Mr Gilberto Gil, Minister of Culture of Brazil, and these are still to be confirmed. Lecturers will participate during the various sessions:

Roundtable – The UNESCO convention on Cultural Diversity: preliminary report and perspectives

Shared perspectives – The UNESCO convention on Cultural Diversity in light of cultural freedom and imbalance between the North and the south – an instrument of censorship, or a tool for rich countries?

Shared perspectives – The role of Intellectual Property law in the promotion of cultural diversity

Roundtable – cultural diversity for the countries of the South without grants or charity – a utopia?

Roundtable – The role of competition law in the promotion of cultural diversity

Roundtable – International commercial law – the strongest law working at the expense of cultural diversity?

<http://www.umrdc.fr/conference-diversite-culturelle/>

#### **4. 20 and 21 May 08. UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors reminded the international community that goals are far from being met. Civil society to redouble their efforts to achieve 'Education for all' by 2015.**

In their annual meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 20 and 21 May, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors reminded the international community that these goals are far from being met.

These outstanding celebrity advocates urged governments and civil society to redouble their efforts to achieve 'Education for all' by 2015. They also supported UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura in appealing to donors to honour the promise made at the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2000 that no country seriously committed to EFA would be thwarted in its efforts by a lack of resources.

Meeting on the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development and the International Year of Languages (2008) the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors acknowledged that multilingualism is a passport to democracy. However, half of the world's 7000 languages currently face extinction. They also made a plea to governments to promote bi- and multilingual education, and to respect mother languages in all countries.

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=42504&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=42504&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

#### **5. Brussels: Relevant Ongoing Policy Round Up, by Monica Horten.**

There are three policy initiatives related to online content currently doing the rounds in Brussels. The so-called 'telecoms package' introduces changes which will enable governments to implement copyright enforcement measures throughout Europe, similar to those currently proposed in France (the Olivennes proposals). But it isn't necessarily good news for creative industries. In the first place, it is difficult to implement and likely to be ineffective. There are many problems at a technical level with the filtering measures proposed, and they will need to be paid for. Moreover, users can easily circumvent any filtering – and they already are! Secondly, the mass surveillance that is proposed infringes on civil liberties to an unacceptable level – and there is opposition within the European Parliament. Thirdly, many individual artists and small film production companies, who rely on the free distribution of the Internet risk being censored themselves.

Meanwhile, it is not clear what is happening with the Creative Content Online consultation, although the indications are that some items are dropping off the agenda. Notably measures to resolve the collective rights situation at a European level seem to be being set aside. This is bad news for the music industry, which urgently needs a resolution on collective rights management in order to be able to make music legally available online throughout the EU.

In a separate move, DG External Trade is negotiating on an anti-counterfeiting trade agreement (ACTA). This appears to be outside the scope of the WTO and would not be scrutinised by the European Parliament. It is about criminal measures against downloading. It gives cause for alarm because it is inadequately

defined, and threatens to criminalise individuals who download content for personal use. As with the Telecoms Package, it is not good news for the creative industries, because it stands to protect the interests of the large multi-nationals, and takes away a resource from the smaller producers.

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## **6. Call for Contribution and Participation: U40-Capacity Building Programme "Cultural Diversity 2030"**

The German Commission to UNESCO is inviting young professional and experts, under the age of 40, to contribute to an international debate on Cultural Diversity and the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (2005).

Following the success of the interdisciplinary capacity building programme "Cultural Diversity 2030", in April 2007, the German Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with the Catalan government, is launching a second round of Call for Contributions.

The Programme is seeking up to 20 young specialists from Europe with proven competence and interest in various aspects pertaining to the Convention. Candidates are invited to submit a short paper (800 words) and a CV by 30 June 2008. For further details on subject areas, dates and conditions please visit the German Commission's website.