

# **S H O R T C I R C U I T**

*European Network of Short Film and Video Art Organizations  
Réseau européen des diffuseurs de courts métrages et d'art vidéo*

## *Statutes of the association*

### **Preamble**

Short Circuit promotes the short film format as a cinematographic work in its ownright, and has as an objective the representation of the European short film in all its lengths and forms (fiction, animation, documentary, experimental and video art), as well as its diffusion by all possible means (cinemas, festivals, television, web etc.)

Short Circuit also works for cultural development in different areas, both physical and virtual, and seeks to develop legal and business models that guarantee the respect for the copyright holders, the works and their intrinsic value.

### **Title I - Name, objectives and means of the association**

#### **Article 1: Establishment and name**

An association known as “Short Circuit - European Network of Short Film and Video Art Organizations” hereinafter referred to as “Short Circuit” is hereby established.

It is governed by the provisions of the French Law of 1st July 1901.

The duration of the association is unlimited.

The association’s head office is established in Île-de-France. The Board may change the address of the head office by simple decision, which will be published in the Official Newsletter within one month.

#### **Article 2: Objectives**

The association aims at the networking of European organizations that work for the distribution and promotion of short films, in order to improve the circulation of European films in Europe as well as their promotion and distribution both in Europe and internationally.

Its mission objectives are, among others, as follows:

- To represent European short film organizations at a European level and to enable short films to be recognized and financially supported by European aid programs.
- To inform European short film organizations about national and European policies regarding short films.
- To promote the innovative role of European short film organizations aiming to discover new authors and new cinematography.
- To create a network for its members and be a centre for the interchange of information and ideas.
- To provide collective responses to important issues related to the sector, especially with regard to the impact of new technologies and the development of new means of distribution.
- To encourage artistic collaboration between its members: Catalogue exchange, joint short film programmes for international distribution.

### **Article 3: Means**

The objectives outlined in Article 2 shall be implemented by the following means:

- Creation of a platform on the internet (or any other support) listing and describing the various actions below,
- Organisation of meetings, conferences, events, screenings, and publications aimed at a professional audience or otherwise,
- Creation of a common database of short films,
- Creation of a common database of adherent members
- Creation and distribution of European short film programmes,
- Collection, summary and provision of information including, legal, economic and technical issues relating to the short film format at the European level,
- Promotion of activities relating to event distribution set up by members of the association,
- Development of a European press review dedicated to short films,
- Creation and development of partnerships between the different members with a special focus on activities relating to programming and bilateral or multilateral distribution.
- Lobbying of national and international organizations, administrative bodies, governments at local, national or European level as well as technical service providers,
- Creation of cross-links to develop common interests with other European-oriented structures,
- Creation of a support fund for the digitalization of films selected by the different member structures.

This listing of the means of the organization is not exhaustive or limitative.

## **Title II – Membership and admission**

### **Article 1: Members**

The members of *Short Circuit* shall be the original signatories and those subsequently admitted.

The association consists of founding members, adherent members, associate members and honorary members.

Members pay an annual fee, with the exception of honorary members who are exempt.

#### **1/ Founding members**

On the day of the association's creation, the founding members are as follows:

- KurzfilmAgentur, Germany
- Interfilm, Germany
- Croatian Audiovisual Centre, Croatia
- Agencia Freak, Spain
- L'Agence du court métrage, France
- Irish Film Board, Ireland,
- Centro Nazionale del Cortometraggio, Italy

- Norwegian Film Institute, Norway
- Eye Film Instituut, The Netherlands,
- Curtas Metragens CRL (Agencia), Portugal,
- Swedish film institute, Sweden
- Swiss Films, Switzerland

## **2/ Adherent members**

An adherent member shall be any legal entity, having previously paid annual dues, that uses the services of *Short Circuit*.

Adherent members must be involved in the distribution and promotion of short films in Europe, whether at local, national or international level.

In the event that a European state has no organization dedicated to the promotion and distribution of short films, *Short Circuit* may admit as an adherent member any structure that has the promotion and distribution of short films among its activities.

Applications for admission as an adherent member should be addressed to the Board who reviews and approves the admission of new members.

Associate members may receive information on the activities of *Short Circuit* and participate in the General Assembly.

## **3/ Associate members**

Associate members are legal entities selected by the Board and who, by their actions, support the objectives of the association.

These members may be public or private structures that are not eligible to be adherent members, including: director or producer associations, state and non-state organizations helping to finance film-making, universities, other organizations of an educational nature, foundations and charities.

The associate members have no voting rights and are not required to pay any annual fee.

## **4/ Honorary Members**

An honorary member shall be any person or entity appointed by the Board, and selected from those who have rendered services to the association.

Honorary members are not required to pay annual dues and have no voting rights.

## **Article 2: Obligations, expulsions, resignations**

Every member of the association is required to comply with the statutes, rules, procedures and decisions taken by the Board or passed by the General Assembly.

Any member may terminate its membership at any time by a letter to the Board. Such termination will be effective immediately.

Any member may be expelled with immediate effect if the Board considers that a serious breach of regulations and/or acts contrary to the purpose of the association and/or acts damaging the association's image and reputation have been committed by the member. The same will be held true for the non-payment of annual dues.

The expulsion will be ratified by two-thirds of the members present or represented at the next General Assembly.

Members who have resigned or who have been expelled will no longer benefit from the services of the association nor shall request a refund of contributions.

### **Title III – Administration and operation**

#### **Article 1: Organisation of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly meets at least once a year. It shall be convened either by the Board or at the request of at least twenty-five percent of the voting members of the association.

The invitation to the General Assembly must be sent by the Board to each member of the association at least one month before the scheduled date.

The agenda of the General Assembly shall be set by the Board.

The Annual General Assembly shall consider the president's report and the annual activity report and approve the Board's financial accounts. All those elements will be sent to all by mail before the Annual General Assembly.

It approves the proposed budget for the coming year, discusses the items on the agenda and, if necessary, renews the mandate of Board members.

A report of the proceedings is prepared in the course of each General Assembly.

The final reports and accounts shall be sent to the association members each year within 30 days after the holding of the Assembly.

#### **Article 2: Participation in the General Assembly**

All association members are invited to attend the General Assembly and participate in discussions.

Only the founding members and adherent members who have paid their dues are entitled to take part in voting.

Each member is entitled to one vote in the General Assembly.

Each voting member may give a proxy to another voting member to represent him at the General Assembly but no member shall receive more than two proxies.

Also, a voting member may appoint more persons to attend the General Assembly, although only one person in this case shall vote.

The General Assembly may only validly deliberate if twenty-five percent of its voting members are present or represented. In the event that this minimum is not reached, the General Assembly may nevertheless deliberate, however its decisions shall not take effect until two weeks after all the members received the final reports and accounts, provided that no objection is communicated to the secretariat.

Decisions are made by a simple majority of voting members present or represented. In the case of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

### **Article 3: The Board**

The Board is composed of the following:

- One representative for each founding member. In case of a change of representative, the founding member will be required to first inform the President of the Board at least 30 days prior to the meeting of Board.
- And, after the first year of the association, four representatives of adherent members appointed by the General Assembly for two years. They may be re-elected but only for a maximum of two consecutive terms. During the election, the General Assembly will ensure the proper representation on the Board of European geographic, cultural and / or linguistic diversity.

The Board implements the association's programme and determines its means of operation.

The Board finalises the financial accounts, validates the president's report and the annual activity report and then presents them to the General Assembly for approval.

It prepares the budget and can establish rules of procedure.

It accounts for the actions of the Bureau members and, where appropriate, the Coordinator.

The members of the Board may promote the association's activities internationally, in accordance with the general policy decided by the Board.

This listing of the Board's powers is not exhaustive.

### **Article 4: Board Meetings**

The Board shall meet at least once a year.

It may be convened at any time by the President, or at the request of a majority of its members.

The notice for convening the meeting shall be sent at least two months before the scheduled date and shall include the agenda set by the President.

No member may receive more than one proxy.

The Board may only validly deliberate if at least twenty-five percent of its voting members are present or represented. In the event that this minimum is not reached, the Board may nevertheless deliberate, however its decisions shall not take effect until eight days later, provided that no objection is communicated to the secretariat.

All decisions needing a vote shall be decided based on a majority of members present or represented.

In the case of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

### **Article 5: Salary**

No member of the Board shall receive a salary for his or her duties.

Only claims for expenses that are real and justified are admissible. These expenses are to be approved in advance by the President or the Board.  
The details of these expenses shall be submitted to the Treasurer who will validate them and have them reimbursed.

### **Article 6: The Bureau**

The Board shall elect by secret ballot a Bureau composed of:

- a President,
- a maximum of three Vice-Presidents,
- a Secretary,
- a Treasurer.

The Bureau is elected for a duration of two years. Its members may be reappointed.

The Bureau shall meet at least once a year.

The President shall convene meetings of the Board and the General Assemblies. He represents the association in all acts of civil life and has all powers to that effect.

With the Board's agreement, he shall take all appropriate measures for the smooth running and good management of the association. He appoints the employees, and authorizes expenditure.

He chairs the Board and the General Assembly whose decisions he is entrusted to enforce.

The Secretary is responsible for everything related to correspondence and records. He writes the minutes of the deliberations of the Bureau, the Board and the General Assemblies. He ensures the registration records and monitors the execution of the formalities prescribed by law.

The Treasurer is responsible for all matters relating to the ongoing management of the assets of the association. His principal role shall be to ensure the collection of dues and the verification of the expenses incurred by the Board.

He monitors the financial and accounting management, and reports regularly on these matters to the Board.

In case of absence or unavailability of one of the Bureau members, the Board provides for substitutions.

### **Article 7: Coordinator**

The Bureau may propose the appointment of a coordinator whose nomination will then be submitted for approval by the Board.

The Coordinator will be recruited as necessary by the Board from outside of its own members.

The Coordinator will implement the policy of the association as defined by the Board.

## **Title IV – Financial provisions**

### **Article 1: Association resources**

The financial resources of the association consist of:

- Membership fees whose amount is determined annually by the Annual General Assembly on the proposal of the Board,
- Government grants it may receive,
- Income received for services rendered by the association,
- All other authorized resources.

Any help or subsidy must be validated by the Board and accepted only under the condition that it contains no provision that could undermine the independence of the association and/or modification of its objectives.

As such, the association has the right to refuse any grant and/or donation if the Board considers that it is not in the best interest of the association to accept it.

## **Title V – Various provisions**

### **Article 1: Rules of Procedure**

The Board may establish rules of procedure that will determine the means of execution of the present statutes.

The provisions of this Regulation and any future amendments decided by the Board shall apply immediately and provisionally and until such time as the General Assembly votes their final authorization with a simple majority vote.

### **Article 2: Amendment of the statutes**

The present Statutes may only be amended by an Extraordinary General Assembly.

Any change, addition or amendment to the statutes of the association must be proposed either by the Board or by at least half of all its voting members.

The Board shall notify all voting members of the proposed changes, addition or amendment to the statutes at least one month prior to the Extraordinary General Assembly.

At least half of the voting members must be present or represented at the Extraordinary General Assembly for the purpose of amending the statutes.

If this condition is met, it may coincide with the meeting of the Annual General Assembly.

Each voting member shall receive no more than one proxy.

Amendments to the statutes must be voted by a majority of voting members present or represented. In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

### **Article 3: Dissolution**

The dissolution of the association can only be decided by an Extraordinary General Assembly convened specifically for that purpose by the Board at least two months before.

To validly deliberate, the Extraordinary General Assembly must include at least two-thirds of the voting members present or represented.

Each voting member shall receive no more than one proxy.

If the two-thirds quorum is not reached, a new Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened no later than sixty days later, and will be able to deliberate validly regardless of the number of members present.

In all cases, the decision to dissolve the association must be made by at least two thirds of the voting members present or represented.

#### **Article 4: Liquidation**

In case of dissolution, the Extraordinary General Assembly shall appoint one or more liquidators to ensure the liquidation of the association's assets. If no appointment is made, the liquidation will be conducted by the elected Bureau at the time of the dissolution.

The Extraordinary General Meeting shall decide on what should be done with the assets of the association, which may be attributed to a non-profit organization whose activities are consistent with the objectives of the association.

#### **Article 5: Formalities**

The signatories of the present statutes shall designate one of their member to complete all formalities as well as the statements and legal publications.

Full powers are given to the bearer hereof for the purpose of performing these procedures.

#### **Article 6: Original language of the statutes**

These articles were originally written in French and translated into English. In case of contradiction between the French and the English translation, the first will prevail.