

PRESS RELEASE

Workshop on The Euromed Audiovisual Legal Database and Respect and Safeguard of the Cultural Diversity in Audiovisual Sector Brussels 23, 24 and 25 November 2009

The European Union is organising a Euromed Audiovisual Programme **workshop** which will take place on 23, 24 and 25 November 2009 in Brussels, **on the progress of the Programme's legal database as well as on respect and safeguard of the cultural diversity in non-linear exploitation forms of film and audiovisual works.**

The workshop, which will bring together around 20 representatives of audiovisual national authorities from the 9 ENPI South countries will be opened by a representative of the European Commission. Michel Gyory, legal expert to the Euromed Audiovisual II Programme, **will present a report on the progress of the Programme's legal database**, a unique legal tool relating to the legislation governing copyright and related rights as well as film and audiovisual law in the ENPI South countries and bringing together the laws of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia.

The three-day workshop will provide a forum to discuss the main topic concerning this innovative database, aimed at cinema and audiovisual professionals, and developed during Euromed Audiovisual II Programme.

The workshop will also tackle a strategic theme for the cinema and audiovisual industries of the two shores of the Mediterranean that imply the respect and safeguard of the cultural diversity in non-linear exploitation forms of film and audiovisual works.

Euromed Audiovisual has contributed to raise awareness of the audiovisual sector national authorities with respect to priority issues (including film piracy, archives, public funding, etc...). Exposure was given to Mediterranean and European films, with audiences of over 3 million people, 160 film releases supported in 24 European and Mediterranean countries and assistance to 50 films to go into production.

The various initiatives of its 12 projects spanning the entire film *development, distribution, promotion* and *exhibition* processes have laid solid foundations for durable partnerships and a vast network among Mediterranean professionals with 550 of them having benefited from training and development workshops.

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