

FRANCE - Announcing the establishment of a new screenwriters' union, Syndicat des Scénaristes, dedicated to defending audiovisual, cinematographic, and audio drama writers' rights.

The union's main mission is to protect the rights of writers PRIOR TO the exploitation of their work, during the research, creation, and writing stages. This phase is notoriously marked by numerous challenges, such as unstable, unreasonable, unfair, or even nonexistent compensation, poor working conditions, as well as undignified practices due to serious misunderstandings of the applicable laws.

We uphold the fact that the act of writing is indeed WORK. Work that sustains powerful industries and economies, in a sector that is constantly evolving. However, our work is not recognized today for its true value. What is worse, current changes to our sector are being made at the expense of our rights as well as livelihood.

Creative works are relatively well-defended during the exploitation phase, particularly thanks to the collective management organizations, whereas the work of the screenwriters prior to exploitation remains poorly regulated and largely undervalued. And yet, it is during this research, creation and writing phase that the screenwriter mobilizes their time and expertise, whether the work goes into production or not and regardless of any hypothetical exploitation revenue.

The Syndicat des Scénaristes also aims to defend technical and artistic recognition of our profession. We are artists-authors with dramaturgical skills and a creative vision, not mere executors who are simply responding to the demands of a market-driven industry. Our work should not be subject to baseless reappropriation at any stage. Rather, we believe that we should be consulted in case of major changes during the shooting or editing process, and that the screenwriters who are also the creators of a project must participate in the final cut jointly with the director and the producer.

The Syndicat des Scénaristes calls for an end to bad industry practices that not only make our profession more precarious but also make us even more invisible in the public, media and political spheres. As a direct result of all these issues, what we are left with is a lack of any clear social and fiscal status for writers.

For all these reasons, we are coming together around the core values of solidarity, knowledge sharing, professionalism, trust and transparency, so that together we can forge concrete solutions based on the law. This work will be done in collaboration with other national and international authors' organizations.

Let's Make Our Voices Matter!