

Paris, Septembre 30th

sacd / genario agreement: a danger to authors' rights

The Syndicat des Scénaristes (SdS) issues a general alert about the current negotiations between SACD (a French collective management organisation) and the artificial intelligence service Genario. This first agreement sends a worrying signal to the entire workforce. The legal precedent that this agreement represents could permanently compromise French and European initiatives to protect authors from the abuses of generative AI.

With this agreement, the SACD legitimates the pre-existing plundering of audiovisual works operated by the AI giants, in return for a percentage of a French start-up's revenue. As a reminder, Genario is a mere interface based entirely on third-party AIs such as ChatGPT or Claude, with no control over the original data. **The SdS is surprised to discover that these negotiations have been conducted without prior explanation to the SACD membership.** Faced with a technological upheaval, the full consequences of which we cannot yet measure, only a global and concerted reflection with all stakeholders will enable us to preserve our rights.

Although this systematic and illegal plundering of our works is already, unfortunately, a reality, we firmly believe that the battle is not yet lost. By negotiating with Genario today, the SACD is making a big mistake by endorsing the idea that this violation of copyright cannot be stopped. Rather than fighting these practices through legal recourse or initiating a debate to establish safeguards, the SACD is waiving the long-term defense of authors and favors immediate profits from screenwriters' work.

By using Genario as a trial balloon, the SACD hopes to establish a framework that will force the AI giants to negotiate with it tomorrow. One only has to look at OpenAI's recent response to news publishers to understand that this will not be the case. **With this deal, we authorize the theft of our work in exchange for symbolic compensation.** The very development of a future protective legal framework is thus seriously compromised.

Last but not least, especially since France is known for its strong protection of authors' rights, this agreement sends out an alarming signal on the international stage. It threatens to weaken the many initiatives currently underway in Europe to protect authors from the abuses of generative AI. For example in Germany, the Initiative Urheberrecht, which brings together 140,000 artist-authors, is calling for more safeguards. Or the consultation launched by the European Commission to draw up a Code of Practice for general-purpose AI. At a time when an increasing number of authors are demanding opt-out rights, this agreement leaves no chance for debate.

For these reasons, the SdS calls for the immediate suspension of this agreement. On this crucial issue, we call for the swift opening of professional negotiations involving all artist-author unions. We invite all screenwriters who reject this defeatist dynamic to mobilize and think together about defending our rights.

The destruction of copyright is not inevitable.

Let's Make Our Voices Matter!

Le Syndicat des Scénaristes