



Media Release

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Artificial Intelligence: Global Screenwriters Call for Ethical Use

In 2024, members of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE), and the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG), will work together to advance a set of five principles to establish an ethical framework for the development and use of artificial intelligence in the scriptwriting process.

A joint resolution passed by both organizations states their member guilds will:

- 1) Affirm that only writers create literary material and that large language models (LLMs) or any other present or future forms of artificial intelligence (AI), cannot be used in place of writers;
- 2) Work to create mechanisms for obligatory transparency and accountability and to ensure writers are informed if AI generated material is used to write, re-write, polish or perform any additional writing services;

- 3) Advocate for robust licensing mechanisms that require explicit and informed consent for the use of writers' intellectual property in AI training data with a goal to ensure only intellectual property that has been licensed for such use be included in the datasets of commercialized LLMs, or any other present or future forms of AI;
- 4) Ensure that only human beings are entitled to authors rights and recognized under copyright law in the context of machine generated material;
- 5) Advocate for fair remuneration for the use of writers' intellectual property in LLMs or any other present or future forms of AI.

“While we applaud the work of the EU to enact the AI Act, there are unresolved issues with respect to the unauthorized use of our intellectual property for training large language models, and uncertainty regarding authorship and copyright of machine-generated script material. We intend to voice our concerns in both national and global policy arenas, as well as develop standard language film and television writers can demand in their contracts.” — German Screenwriter and FSE President, Carolin Otto.

“The members of the IAWG seek to build on the hard-won protections our sister Guilds in America, the WGAE and the WGAW, were able to achieve during their strike: namely that it should be a tool to enhance our writing process, not diminish the value of our work or replace us. Last year, we campaigned at UNESCO and this year we will take our position to WIPO, support each other during collective bargaining, and invite representatives of the tech community to the 6th World Conference of Screenwriters in Galway.” — Irish Screenwriter and IAWG Chair, Jennifer Davidson.

The **Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE)** brings together 32 screenwriters' organisations from 26 European countries. The **International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG)** has 14 members from 12 countries.



POSITION ON THE ETHICAL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

April 11, 2024

As resolved at their annual general meetings in 2023, the members of the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG) and Federation of European Screenwriters (FSE) agree that, whether through collective bargaining, mandatory clauses in standard contracts, or through lobbying for regulation and legislation, the IAWG, FSE, and its member guilds will:

- 1) Affirm that only writers create literary material and that large language models (LLMs) or any other present or future forms of artificial intelligence (AI), cannot be used in place of writers;
- 2) Work to create mechanisms for obligatory transparency and accountability and to ensure writers are informed if AI generated material is used to write, rewrite, polish or perform any additional writing services;
- 3) Advocate for robust licensing mechanisms that require explicit and informed consent for the use of writers' intellectual property in AI training data with a goal to ensure only intellectual property that has been licensed for such use be included in the datasets of commercialized LLMs, or any other present or future forms of AI;
- 4) Ensure that only human beings are entitled to authors rights and recognized under copyright law in the context of machine generated material;
- 5) Advocate for fair remuneration for the use of writers' intellectual property in LLMs or any other present or future forms of AI.

IAWG Members: Deutscher Drehbuchverband (DDV); La Guilde Française des Scénaristes (La Guilde); New Zealand Writers Guild (NZWG); Screenwriters Association, India (SWA); Screenwriters Guild of Israel (SGL); Screenwriters' Guild of Korea (SGK); Sindicato de Guionistas de España (ALMA); Société des auteurs de radio, télévision et cinéma (SARTEC); Writers Guild of America East (WGAE); Writers Guild of America West (WGAW); Writers Guild of Canada (WGC); Writers Guild of Great Britain (WGGB); Writers Guild of Ireland (WGI); Writers' Guild of South Africa (WGSA)

FSE Members: Drehbuchverband Austria; Association des Scénaristes de l'Audiovisuel (ASA), Belgium; Scenaristengilde (SG), Belgium; Bulgarian Assn. of the Film, Television and Radio Scriptwriters (BAFTRS); (SPID), Croatia; Danish Writers Guild (DWG); Eesti Stsenaristide Gild (ESG), Estonia; Suomen Näytelmäkirjailijat Ja Käsikirjoittajat (SUNKLO), Finland; La Guilde Française des Scénaristes (La Guilde), France; Deutscher Drehbuchverband (DDV), Germany; Writers Guild of Great Britain (WGGB); Enosi Senariografon Ellados (ESE), Greece; Félag leikskálda og handritshöfunda (FLH), Iceland; Writers Guild of Ireland (WGI); Writers Guild Italia (WGI); Screenwriters Guild of Latvia (SGL); Luxembourgish Association of Filmmakers and Scriptwriters (LARS); Network Scenarioschrijvers/Auteursbond (NS), Netherlands; Dramatikerforbundet(DF), Norway; Gildia Scenarzystów Polskich (GSP), Poland; Kolo Scenarzystow Stowarzyszenie Filmowców Polskich (SFP), Poland; Associação Portuguesa de Argumentistas e Dramaturgos (APAD), Portugal; Association of Slovak Screenwriters in Audiovision (ASSA); DSR - Scenaristi, Slovenia; Autores Literarios de Medios Audiovisuales (ALMA), Spain; Forum de Asociaciones de Guionistas del Audiovisual (FAGA), Spain; Dramatikerförbundet, Sweden; Scénario (ARF/FDS), Switzerland; Guild of Screenwriters of Ukraine