

To: The Greek creators' unions «METRON», «ASMA 450+», «SOMSE», «HYPERVASIS»

Neuilly sur Seine, February 14th, 2020

By email: svmateiotometron@gmail.com; 450dimiourgoi@gmail.com; info@somse.gr,
info.somse@gmail.com; ipervasiss@gmail.gr

Dear colleagues,

Collective management in Greece - pressing need for creators' unions to join forces under one CMO

I am writing to you on behalf of CIAM, the International Council of Music Creators, which exists to promote the interests and protect the livelihoods of music authors worldwide. CIAM is recognised as the world's largest alliance of songwriters and composers, representing over five hundred thousand professional music creators across five continents and serving as their global voice since 1966.

On behalf of our members, I am writing to you to share our utmost concern regarding the current developments in collective management of music creators' rights in Greece. Specifically, we encourage our Greek creator colleagues and their respective unions to join forces under one single collective management organisation (CMO). We respectfully submit this not to favour of one CMO over the other, but in the sincere belief that one unified society is in the best interest of Greek music creators, as well as those of us in other parts of the world.

As you know, since the formal revocation of the AEPI operational license, the copyright collective management situation in Greece has been the focus of a great deal of attention from the international creative community. While the former Greek government chose to authorise a temporary vehicle (EYED), organised as a department within the OPI, to manage the rights of former AEPI members, particular concerns were raised by both Greek and international stakeholders regarding OPI/EYED's conflict of interest in governance, the temporary nature of EYED and on-going legal proceedings challenging its operations.

At the same time, the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) and many of its member organisations strongly committed to supporting AUTODIA, an existing CISAC member, operating as a not-for-profit CMO in Greece. As an act of solidarity with Greek creators, CISAC created an interest free loan fund to support the necessary improvements in AUTODIA. Many CISAC members contributed to this fund, either large, small or medium-sized CMOs from all around the world. As a result, AUTODIA has quickly started improving its operational capacity and technical infrastructure, introducing important changes to the society's governance and thus delivering total transparency to AUTODIA members and sister societies, in full compliance with highest international standards and best practices. The vast majority of music CMOs around the world have also entrusted the administration of their repertoire to AUTODIA through bilateral representation agreements.

Meanwhile, and while EYED's mandate is about to reach its end in June 2020, we have been watching with growing concern the initiative to create a new collective rights management entity for music creators, EDEM, to replace EYED. **Although we fully acknowledge the right of the Greek creators to establish a new society to license their rights, based on our experiences in similarly sized countries, multiple collective management entities often do not lead to improved situation for local creators.** We are convinced that such a development would further destabilise the Greek licensing market, ultimately spreading confusion among the Greek users and creators alike, as well as within the international collective management community. This will likely result in decreased capacity for both AUTODIA and EDEM to licence, collect and, ultimately, pay royalties to the Greek music creators.

Through the regular business updates circulated by AUTODIA to the international collective management community, we are informed that AUTODIA is and remains committed to finding a common solution for all Greek music creators, by uniting its efforts with all key stakeholders towards a single collective management organisation in Greece, which would become a natural home for all Greek songwriters and composers.

On behalf of CIAM representing professional music creators worldwide, I would like to express our deepest support for a single-CMO solution in Greece, and our full commitment to facilitating a dialogue between the Greek creators' unions and all relevant stakeholders to achieve this objective.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of the matters raised in this letter and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at the earliest convenience to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Schwartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eddie Schwartz
President
CIAM