

His Excellency, Mr. Alexis Tsipras  
Prime Minister  
Hellenic Republic

Her Excellency, Mrs. Lydia Koniordou  
Minister of Culture and Sports  
Hellenic Republic

Stockholm and Brussels, 8 March 2017

Dear Prime Minister, dear Minister

ECSA is the representative body of composers and songwriters of all genres of music in Europe and represents 54 national associations in 26 European countries.

It came to our knowledge that Ernst & Young conducted an audit at AEPI, which found in essence that AEPI systematically mismanaged the rights of authors, engaged in activities of personal enrichment of shareholders and senior management officials and operated its administration in a non-transparent manner. The audit concludes that AEPI has a negative equity of almost 20 million EUR and only for the financial year 2014 a loss of 1.2 million EUR. Generally, the operating costs of AEPI are higher compared to the revenue of the company, resulting in the creation of significant operational losses.

We therefore urge you to act as promptly as possible and to appoint a government commissioner/administrator to manage AEPI and to transform AEPI into a non-for-profit organisation with a fair balance of rightholders represented on the board. This would safeguard the continuity of the collective management of authors' rights in Greece, representing local and international repertoire. The worst case scenario and damage to Greek and foreign composers and songwriters would be a dismantling of AEPI, resulting in a loss of protection of intellectual property with serious damage to the creative and economic sector.

We also respectfully urge you to promptly implement the 2014 EU directive on collective management of rights, which we believe will significantly help to improve transparency, efficiency and accountability in the management of authors' rights.

We are at your disposal in case of any questions. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely Yours,



Alfons Karabuda  
President



Patrick Ager  
Secretary General