

Reform proposal of UNICA presented by the FFCV

I. Modification to the statutes to be submitted to the General Assembly

Observation: One of the recurring difficulties concerning the UNICA competitions comes from the disparities between members.

On the one hand, there are the real federations, representing several film clubs or film workshops, on the other hand, there are so called “national organisations”, who only choose films produced in their country, without the director being a member of said selection organisation.

This disparity causes many breaches of the competition regulations, especially concerning the Young Professionals or Youth categories.

Proposal: We propose to make a distinction between real federations, who will be full-function ordinary members, and the other structures, which will be awarded the status of associated member. Full-function ordinary members would have a projection time of an hour and fifteen minutes; whereas associated member would have 45 minutes. In order to become an ordinary member, the associated member will have to federate at least FIVE clubs or workshops.

New drafting of Art. 3

UNICA is composed of ordinary **and associated** members.

3.1. Ordinary **and associated** members

3.1.1. Ordinary **and associated** members are the national organisations representing film-makers in their respective countries.

Ordinary members are the national organisations federating at least five clubs or workshops promoting film-making without a commercial purpose.

Associated members are the national organisations which do not function as federations.

3.2. Rights of the ordinary **and associated** members

3.2.1. All ordinary **or associated** members etc.

3.6. Departure of ordinary **or associated** members

3.6.1. Ordinary **or associated** members

3.6.2. Any ordinary **or associated** member

2. Competition regulations, which can be modified by the Committee according to Art. 7.1. of the Statutes

The regulations are talking about a “world competition”, while the UNICA only counts about thirty members. We could echo the official denomination of the UNICA, which is in French “Union Internationale du Cinéma”, and thus talk about an “International Movie Contest”. This name would be closer to the reality. The FFCV does not consider this point to be a question of principle, and raises it as a mere observation.

Articles 4.4. and 4.6., considered obsolete, can be removed.

There is a slight contradiction between Art. 6.8., stating that debates within the jury are not public, and Art. 6.9., which provides that the jury regularly discusses films with the public.

Art 6.9. presents several disadvantages:

- The members of jury are not really saying what they think about the movies, since they will discuss and deliberate after said discussions
- These discussions are only attracting a lesser audience (less than half of the congress participants stay in the room, it has been witnessed many times)
- These discussions reduce the time the jury could have for their actual deliberation.

If a discussion time with the public is to be planned, would it not be better to make it before the award ceremony? The ceremony would not need the “lights” for the different votes. Indeed, the audience does not need to know which member voted for which film, since the jury deliberations are not open to the public. This principle should be applied completely.

3. Appendix to the competition regulations

A. Total application of an article of the Appendix

The FFCV demands the total application of Art. 5.4, which states that “The jury has to evaluate all of the projected movies. Indeed, the competition etc.”

This obviously concerns the minute-movies, which should also be judged by the jury. There is thus no need for the “World Minute Movie Cup”, which is very far from a worthy cinematographic evaluation.

B. Responsibility of the national organisations

Observation: The national organisations are members of the UNICA, not the individual authors. Therefore, the UNICA does not have the authority to make contact with them in order to obtain warranty about the movies. Furthermore, Art. 3.2. Of the competition regulations states that the national organisations, as sole members of the UNICA, carry the entire responsibility for the programmes they present.

The registration forms signed by the authors in 2016 did not protect the UNICA from any breach to the regulations. Those breaches have been signalled by the FFCV. The UNICA can not protect itself from an enormous fraud like the 2013 one by this subsidiary procedure, which incidentally goes against the Statutes and the Competition Regulations. A resolute fraudster will sign all the documents he is presented with, and should he not be discovered, he could win some awards.

The declaration of author responsibility is not a good measure in principle, and is far from being efficient.

Proposals

- a- It is thus advisable to purely and simply repeal Articles 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5
- b- The FFCV proposes the addition of an article 3.4 to the competition regulations, written as follows, or along similar lines:

By his signature on the registration form of his/her country, the representative of the member organisation of the UNICA is responsible for all questions relative to the World Code of Intellectual Property, be it direct copyright or derivative rights. In case of a recorded fraud, the UNICA can engage legal action against the national organisation not having noticed the fraud AND can also punish the member country by reducing its projection time.

Note: A controlling officer, named by the Committee, could carry out surveys and ask questions to the organising committee of the UNICA congress and could check if one film or the other is in conformity with the Regulations. Uploading a movie through the Internet will allow the controlling officer to see the movie way before its projection during the festival.

C. Jury discussion and Award ceremony

Changes to the carrying out of the jury discussion with the audience according to Art. 5.1

Remove the word “daily”

4. Notes on the general organisation

Regarding possible excursions: plan them before or after the meetings, if possible.

Plan a half-day break for discussions about cinema in general, the experiences one or the other federation could share with the others, or to discuss topics that could concern all UNICA members, such as the Film Library for instance.

5. Film Library of the UNICA

It has been said during a report by the Film Librarian that there have been no requests for films; and that a room designed for the storage of the films has been found.

Some time ago, Georges Fondeur announced that the UNICA would not engage the digitalisation of its films, because costs were high and the demand very low. If a room has been found for the storage of reels, it is still difficult to ask for them. Archiving the videos (analog or digital) on DVDs is not a good solution for storage. Today, with large HDDs, Clouds, NAS (Network Attached Storage), and the offer from providers for high-capacity file transfer like Filemail.com (for example), it is possible to completely rethink our Film Library, using an online catalogue and simple means of downloading the files.