

**CHARTER
OF THE “SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE CINEMA NETWORK”**

PREAMBLE

The Authorities and the National Film Institutions of the countries of Southeastern Europe responsible for the formulation and application of cinema policy in their countries, and which participate in the present Charter, state that:

- After taking into consideration the special conditions prevailing in each country and the problems faced by the national film industries in the areas of cinema production, promotion and distribution.
- After ascertaining that many of the problems of the various countries are similar and are due to limited financial resources of the national film industries of the area.
- And since they desire unanimously to emphasize the primary cultural role of cinema.

THEY HAVE UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

as neighboring countries with common historic and
cultural roots

- To join forces.
- To accept the basic principles that govern the art of film
- To serve common goals and to undertake common action in order to promote the National Film Industries of their countries.
- And to draw up and sign the present agreement establishing and founding a Cinema Network of Southeastern Europe, with the name “SEE CINEMA NETWORK” and the following Charter.

FIRST CHAPTER

NAME - REGISTERED OFFICES – DURATION – OBJECTIVES - MEANS

**ARTICLE 1
NAME**

The name of the present Organization is “SEE Cinema Network”.

**ARTICLE 2
REGISTERED OFFICES**

The registered offices of the Network will be located in Greece and specifically in the city of Thessaloniki.

**ARTICLE 3
OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Network are:

1. The development and promotion of the National Film Industry of each country participating in the present Organization as a member, in the other member-states as well as in countries outside the network.
2. Bilateral and multilateral collaborations of the Network Members in the sectors of production, promotion as well as the preservation of the film heritage and tradition of each member-state.
3. To develop financial mechanisms and to create a Common Co-production Fund.
4. To encourage and support cooperation and/or coproductions with other film networks in Europe or the rest of the world.

**ARTICLE 4
MEANS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES**

The members agree that the means that will be used to attain the objectives of the Network are the following:

1. Organizing and exchanging tributes and retrospectives and exploiting the possibilities offered by the film festivals organized in the member countries and the rest of the world.
2. Exchanging know-how and instituting incentives to encourage cooperation between film professionals in the countries of the region.
3. Approaching the competent state authorities of the Member-States of the Network regarding the signing of international agreements in the cinema sector and in the area of audiovisual works generally.

4. Undertaking common actions in the areas of production –distribution –script development and organizing common cultural events.

As an indication we cite the following:

- a. The publication of a Film Guide listing the professionals of all the member-states.
- b. The publication of the Minutes of the Members' meetings and of the *conclusions* of these meetings.
- c. Preparation for a common Script Workshop.
- d. The creation of a SEE Cinema Network Festival that will present and tour the countries of the Network members and other countries as well.
- e. Joint representation on festivals and markets for films and other audiovisual works, products and services.
- f. Participation of the Network as a collaborating team in EUROPEAN FILM PROMOTION.
- g. Cooperation with international and European institutions as well as with the networks of countries in other European regions sharing the same concerns.

SECOND CHAPTER

ARTICLE 5 LEGAL STATUS

1. The Network has legal status.
2. Upon decision of the General Assembly full authority of the Network has its legal action in the exercise of functions and the implementation of its objectives can chiefly:
 - a. *Sign contracts*
 - b. *Acquire, rent, hire, possess and grant both movable and immovable goods*
 - c. *Participate in legal procedures*

d. *Enter into agreements with States or International Organizations*

3. The Network will benefit from the legal means necessary for the achievement of its objectives in the territory of each of its members.

THIRD CHAPTER
MEMBERS RIGHTS & OBLIGATIONS

ARTICLE 6
MEMBERS

1. The National Film Institutions of the countries of Southeastern Europe, which have established the present Network and are inscribed in Appendix 1, become members of the Network after signing and ratifying the present Charter.

2. The National Film Institutions of other countries outside S.E. Europe may be accepted as Members following a decision of the General Assembly and a majority of 3/4 of the total number of votes of the Network.

ARTICLE 7
RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS

1. The Network Members have the rights and obligations provided by the present Charter.

2. The Members' rights regarding conferences and sessions, are the their participation following:

a) Each Member is entitled to participate in the Network's conferences, to be elected to the Executive Committee and to propose candidates for election to the Network bodies or to Work Committees that may be formed to examine various subjects that concern the Network.

3. Each Member is entitled to one vote in all the sessions of the General Assembly, the Network conferences and, if a member of the Executive Committee, in all the meetings of this Committee.

4. Each Member is required to pay to the network an annual financial contribution defined by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 8
RETIREMENT OF A MEMBER .SUSPENSION AND CESSATION OF
MEMBERSHIP

1. Each Member can retire from the Network at any time by submitting written notification to the trustee. This retirement is effective from the date of receipt of the aforementioned notification. The retiring member is required to pay the percentage that corresponds to its share of the coverage of the obligations undertaken and approved for the fiscal year during which the retirement takes place as well as for the previous years.

2. If a member does not fulfill its obligations towards the Network, its membership is suspended by an increased majority resolution of the General Assembly. The member under suspension ceases automatically to be a member one year after the date of suspension, unless in the intervening period there is a resolution by the same body with the same majority terminating the suspension.

3. Each member that does not participate in the works, sessions and conferences of the Network and if this continues for a period of six months, ceases to be a member of the Network, unless the General Assembly of the Network by a majority resolution of ~ of the total votes, agrees that it retains its membership.

FOURTH CHAPTER
NETWORK STRUCTURE .NETWORK BODIES
ARTICLE 9
NE TWORK STRUCTURE

1. The Network has the following bodies:

- a) *the general Assembly of the Members*
- b) *the Executive Committee*
- c) *the Executive Secretary*

2. Each body acts within the limits of the jurisdiction described in the present charter. No body may act in a manner that hinders another body from the exercising its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 10
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MEMBERS
COMPOSITION AND SESSIONS

1. The General Assembly of the Members consists of all the Members.
2. A member can be represented by other member in a session of the General Assembly, followed by a written proxy.
3. The sessions of the General Assembly are separated into ordinary and extraordinary ones.
 - a. The ordinary General Assembly convenes every year, by invitation of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The decision as to the location and date of the next Ordinary General Assembly is made by the General Assembly of the Members in the course of an ordinary session.
 - b. The General Assembly can also be convened in an extraordinary session, following application by one or more of its Members which is supported by at least ~ of the Members. Every application of a Member or Members must be justified.
4. Each Member assumes the cost of its representation during the sessions of the Members Assembly. The relevant costs of the sessions of the Members General Assembly are considered as administrative costs of the Network.

ARTICLE 11
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MEMBERS PROCEDURE

1. Each Member has one vote in the General Assembly of the Members. Abstention is not considered as a vote.
2. Resolutions regarding fundamental matters are taken by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Members present or duly represented. If a Member represents another Member he/she can vote separately for the represented member.
3. Resolutions that concern matters of procedure are taken by an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Members present.

4. Fundamental matters are those that refer to the formulation of policy, election of Members to the various bodies, the conclusion of agreements and/or collaborations and other similar matters. Procedural matters are the process of convening the General Assembly, the election of the Presiding Board of the Assembly, the retirement of a member, etc.

5. The General Assembly meets legally when a simple majority of the Members of the General Assembly is present.

6. The General Assembly approves its own bylaws which will always be consistent with the terms of the present charter and which specifically provide for:

- a) *the manner of electing the Chairman of session*
- b) *the process of convening the sessions*
- c) *the relevant provisions for representation and accreditation*
- d) *voting procedures.*

ARTICLE 12 GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMPETENCES

1. The General Assembly of the Members which is the highest and governing Body of the Network and which can handle all matters within its jurisdiction, exercises the following competences:

- a. It charts the general policy of the Network.
- b. It approves the reports and actions of the Executive Committee and proposes to the Executive Committee the necessary measures to specify Network policy and action.
- c. It elects the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary.
- d. It makes decisions regarding the accession or entry of new Members as well as the suspension of Membership.
- e. It makes decisions on concluding bilateral or multilateral collaborations between the Members

as well as with International or European Organizations and Agencies providing that such partnerships do not conflict with the objectives, principles, goals and field of activities of the Network.

- f. It makes decisions regarding the establishment of Network Committees necessary for its function.
 - g. It audits the financial policy and activity of the Network and approves the budget drawn up by the Executive Committee.
2. The General Assembly has every jurisdiction for the implementation of the objectives and goals of the Network that has not been assigned explicitly to any other Body of the Network.
 3. In exercising its jurisdiction the General Assembly takes into consideration all the relevant proposals and recommendations of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 13
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . COMPOSITION _PROCEDURE

1. The Executive Committee consists of three (3) members that are elected during the session of the Ordinary General Assembly.
2. The members of the Executive Committee are elected for a two-year term and may be reelected.
3. Right after their election the three members of the Executive Committee are convened into a body and elect their Chairman.

ARTICLE 14
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE _JURISDICTION

1. The Executive Committee has jurisdiction in making decisions regarding every action that concerns the Network Administration and to handle, support and protect the interests of the Network Members as well as to take any necessary measure for ensuring and promoting the objectives of the Network.

2. It implements the decisions and directions of the General Assembly.
3. It acts as an Executive Body of the General Assembly.
4. It convenes the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies of the members and it prepares the subjects of the agenda.
5. It attends the sessions of the General Assembly, Ordinary or Extraordinary, and makes recommendations regarding subjects on the agenda.
6. It submits to the General Assembly on its own initiative opinions and proposals on matters related to the objectives of the Network.
7. It submits to the General Assembly a program of policy and action for the Network.
8. It supervises the Executive Secretary and it recommends to the General Assembly his/her release his/her duties, when there is a good reason. It determines, upon recommendation of the Executive Secretary, the number, working relation and terms employment of the personnel required to carry out operational activities of the Network.
9. It can establish Work Committees for the purpose of specifying various matters of interest to the Network.
10. In general it has the responsibility for the proper operation of the Network and its Bodies.

ARTICLE 15
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

1. The Executive Secretariat includes the Executive Secretary and the technical and administrative staff required for the Network.
2. The Executive Secretary is elected by the General Assembly of the Network Members following a proposal by the Executive Committee and conditions determined only by the General Assembly. The mandate is three (3) years and he/she has the right to be reelected.
3. The Executive Secretary is the highest technical and Administrative Official of the Network, always subject to

the supervision and resolutions of the Executive Secretariat. The Executive Secretary will be paid by the country he/she represents.

4. The Executive Secretary attends the sessions of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Executive Committee as well as the ones of the Work Committees, which may be established.

5. The Executive Secretary submits to the Executive Committee every year financial reports and budget of the Network.

6. The Executive Secretary by order of the Executive Committee proceeds with hiring the necessary personnel, in accordance with the terms and the specifications of the Executive Committee.

7. In the course of the exercise of their duties, the Executive Secretary and the staff may not ask for or accept directives from authorities or Organizations that do not belong to the Network. Each member-state of the Network is required to respect the international character of the Executive Secretary and of the staff and to facilitate their work.

ARTICLE 16 COMMITTEES

1. The Executive Committee establishes the Committees in accordance with any decision made by the General Assembly.

2. The Executive Committee can also establish other Committees provided these are considered essential for the implementation of the Network objectives and are not in conflict with the Committees that have already been formed by the General Assembly and are in operation.

3. The Executive Committee examines, at least once a year or more frequently if necessary, the need for preserving each Committee.

4. The Executive Committee can make decisions regarding the participation of the Network through a representative in similar or parallel Committees that have been established by other Organizations with related objectives and principles.

**ARTICLE 17
CONFERENCE S**

1. The General Assembly or the Executive Committee can convene local Conferences with a special agenda, namely to examine matters that fall within the jurisdiction of the Network and in order to ensure representation at these Conferences of International or European or other regional Organizations with similar objectives.
2. The Executive Committee handles the representation of the Network at conferences convened by other Organizations provided it considers them of interest.

***FIFTH CHAPTER*
ARTICLE 18
BUDGET AND COSTS**

1. The Executive Secretary draws up and submits to the Executive Committee forecasts for the annual budget of the Network. The Committee examines these forecasts and submits the final budget to the Gen. Assemblies.
2. The General Assembly or, following its authorization, the Executive Committee, has the authority to accept donations, sponsorships and other services to the Network, provided that they are to the interest of the Network and serve its objectives.
3. The Executive Committee can administer and handle emergency cases or unforeseen needs after informong all members of the Network.

***SIXTH CHAPTER*
ARTICLE 19
RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR NETWORKS**

1. The Network can create relations **and** establish collaborations with other international Organizations **or** Networks with similar objectives and principles. Every agreement of the Network with the aforementioned Organizations or Networks must be approved by the General Assembly, following a recommendation by the Executive Committee, with a majority of 2/3 of the members present or duly represented.

2. With the same terms and conditions, the Network can make decisions regarding collaborations or agreements with non-Governmental Organizations.

SEVENTH CHAPTER
ARTICLE 20
MODIFICATIONS

1. Proposals for the modification of the present Charter may be submitted by any member of the Network, or by the Executive Committee or the Executive Secretary. All the member-states of the Network are notified by the Executive Secretary regarding these proposals at least six (6) months before they are submitted to the General Assembly for examination.

2. Each modification proposal must be approved by the General Assembly, which convenes especially for this purpose.

3. These modifications are valid for all member-states provided they are approved by a majority of 2/3 of the members of the Network and are in accordance with the legislation of each country.

ARTICLE 21
TERMINATION

1. Each member-state can terminate the present Charter by notifying the Executive Secretary.

2. This notice of termination becomes valid after a period of six months from the date of receipt by the Executive Secretary.

3. The member terminating the present agreement is required to pay the percentage that corresponds to its share of the coverage of the obligations undertaken and approved both for the fiscal year during which the termination takes place and for the previous fiscal years.

ARTICLE 22
APPROVAL -ACCEPTANCE -SIGNATURE -RATIFICATION -
ENFORCEMENT

1. The present Charter will be open for signature by all the countries founding members of the network by the next Session of the General Assembly in June 2001.
2. The present Charter is subject to the acceptance, approval and ratification by the Countries that will sign.
3. The Charter becomes effective after signature and ratification Charter by 2/3 of the Founding Members.

ARTICLE 23
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official languages of the Charter text as well as of the meetings of the Network are English and French.

ARTICLE 24
TRUSTEE

1. The Greek Cinema Center is the Trustee of the present agreement and the present Charter.
2. The agreement and the present Charter, after approval -acceptance -signature -and ratification, must be deposited in the archives of the Trustee. The Trustee sends ratified copies of the present Charter to all the National Film Institutes of the countries that have signed it.
3. The Trustee is required to inform all Members regarding the signatures and the time of enforcement of the present Charter. Moreover it is required to provide continual, timely and complete information regarding the operation, activity and relations of the Network.

ARTICLE 25 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of the Charter that we are about to sign and ratify, the sense and the meaning of the following terms is defined:

- 1) “*Contract*” means the establishment contract of the Network, which has been decided by all the representatives of the Cinema Organizations of the Southeastern Europe in Hydra, 14 –16/4/2000 and in Thessaloniki 13—15/11/2000, including the preamble.
- 2) “*Preamble*” means the ideological and social background of the art of Cinema in these countries and the reasons that have led these countries to draw up the contract, to the establishment of the Network, the definition of its objects and the means for their achievement.
- 3) “*Member*” of the Network means the State, in which the Charter will apply after their approval and ratification by it.
- 4) “*Signing*” of the Charter means the signing of the text by the Cinema Organization of the Country –candidate member of the Network.
- 5) “*Ratification*” means the keeping of the procedure provided by each country –candidate member of the Network so that a contract would become obligatory for this Country and obtain a legal status.
- 6) “*Trustee*” means the representative of the Country –candidate Member of the Network, in which the Network will have registered offices, and who (person) will be responsible and obliged for checking whether the necessary legal actions for the approval and acceptance of the Charter along with the Preamble and, possibly, its Annexes, as well as for their ratification by all the Countries –candidate Members of the Network have been kept. Moreover, this person is obliged to keep the original text of the Charter along with Preamble and any Annexes, drawn up in two official languages, to send ratified copies, in all the Members, to accept applications, declarations, denunciations, and in general to proceed in any action that is required for the good operation of the Network and the updating of its Members.

Sofia, June 4th 2001

The Founders

Country	Organization	Representative	Signature
1) Republic of Albania			
2) Bosnia and Herzegovina			
3) Republic of Bulgaria			
4) Republic of Croatia			
5) Republic of Cyprus			
6) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			
7) The Hellenic Republic			

8) Republic
of Romania

9) Republic
of Slovenia

10) Republic
of Turkey

11) Federal
Republic
of Yugoslavia

