

**Press Release**

**Brussels, April 22 2013**

**European cinema's professional organisations support film-makers petition to preserve the European audiovisual sector**

Eurocinema, Europacinema, EuropaDistribution, Europa International, FIAD, SAA and UNIC declare their support for a petition launched by European film-makers. The petition aims to exclude audiovisual and cinematographic services from the negotiation mandate of the European Commission for the trade negotiations between the USA and Europe.

These organisations, standing alongside the film-makers who have already signed this petition, encourage the European Member States to make substantial amendments to the negotiation mandate proposed by the European Commission.

The exclusion of audiovisual and cinematographic services from the mandate is an essential condition for the preservation of the support policies that exist for cultural diversity in Europe and to avoid them being brought into question.

Eurocinema, Europacinema, EuropaDistribution, Europa International, FIAD, SAA and UNIC hope that this petition will convince the Member States and Europe's decision makers of the stakes as well as the risks that such a broad negotiation mandate would bring for cultural diversity.

They also invite their members to join this movement by signing the petition. (<https://www.lapetition.be/en-ligne/The-cultural-exception-is-non-negotiable-12826.html>)

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