With the support of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union and in partnership with the Festival Lumière chaired by Bertrand Tavernier, Europa Distribution will hold its 6th Annual Conference from Thursday 18 October til Saturday 20 October 2012.

Europa Distribution, which now represents more than 125 leading independent distributors, has created the conference as a chance to take a hard, practical look at the challenges faced by independent distributors. **70 Distributors from 26 European countries and 20 international speakers** have confirmed their presence for 2 days of discussions on hot distribution matters. Distributors will also participate in the Festival Lumière screenings and activities.

The first panel on Thursday 18 October will tackle the issue of the **distribution of heritage films in the digital age**. The panel will be opened by Thierry Frémaux, General Director of the Lumière Festival, and moderated by Melanie Goodfellow (Screen Intl, UK). Speakers include Elke Bludau (Europe’s Finest, Germany) Jean-Fabrice Janaudy (Les Acacias, France), Rodolphe Lerambert (ADRC, France), Fabien Rigall, (Secret Cinema, UK) and Loïc Magneron (Wide Management, France).

The second work session on Friday 19 morning will deal with **European politics and the future of the Media Programme**. The panel will be moderated by Ignasi Guardans (Cumediae, Belgium). Speakers include Daniela Elstner (Doc and Film, France), Sasha Wieser (East West, Austria), Jakub Duszynski (Gutek Film, Poland) and John Dick (MEDIA/EACEA, Belgium).

On Friday 19 afternoons, distributors will discuss the **opportunities offered by new business models**. The panel will be moderated by Melanie Goodfellow (Screen Intl, UK). Speakers include Ricardo Torres (Consultant, Spain), Sarah Calderon (The Film Agency, Spain), Thomas Cauchon (Cinema De Facto, France), Ivo Andrle (Aerofilm, Czech Republic), Marieke Jonker, (Amstelfilm, Netherlands).

The distributors will also participate in **case studies on recently released and upcoming European films** in order to exchange information on release strategies and share experiences and costs: **Love by Michael Haneke** will be moderated by Agathe Valentin (Les Films du Losange, France), **Angel’s share by Ken Loach** will be moderated by Ivo Andrle (Aerofilm, Czech Republic), **Rust and Bone by Jacques Audiard** will be moderated by Jean-Paul Commin (consultant, France), **Of Snails and Men, by Tudor Giurgiu** will be moderated by Ileana Cecanu (Transylvania, Romania), **Holy Motors by Leos Carax** will be moderated by Jonathon Perchal (Artificial Eye, UK) and **Reality by Matteo Garrone** will be moderated by Jean Labadie (Le Pacte, France).
Europa Distribution will also hold its **General Assembly on Saturday 20 October** and launch **working groups with Europa International** on various matters.

**Europa Distribution** was founded in 2006 and has rapidly grown to its current 125 members in 26 countries. It has become a key voice championing Europe’s **independent film industry**. The body has also created an invaluable database of promotional and technical information on hundreds of European films called CIDINET, supported by the MEDIA Programme.

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For more on **Europa Distribution**, go to [www.europa-distribution.org](http://www.europa-distribution.org) / [www.cidinet.eu](http://www.cidinet.eu)
For more on **the Festival Lumière**, go to [www.festival-lumiere.org](http://www.festival-lumiere.org)

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