



**PRESS RELEASE EUROPA DISTRIBUTION
CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE & NEW BOARD OF
ADMINISTRATION
ESTORIL FILM FESTIVAL 2008
November 25 2008**

Europa Distribution held its 2nd Annual Conference during the Estoril Film Festival on November 20-22 2008. Nearly 70 people attended the conference, among them around 50 Independent European Distributors.

In a time of big changes due to the arrival of new technologies in the European Film industry, it was important to focus the panels on the present and future of Independent European Distributors in this age of digital roll out and VOD. It came out of the debates that it was essential for Independent European Distributors to be aware of the challenges they were facing and to gather in order to have a common position and to find collective answers to these current issues.

Europa Distribution also held its General Assembly and elected its new Board of Administration. We are proud to announce that Luc and Jean-Pierre DARDENNE have accepted to take over the Presidency of Honour of the association.

According to Luc & Jean-Pierre Dardenne, *"We believe that the very existence of Europa Distribution is essential in order to develop a **strong European film industry** that combines **market ambitions and cultural diversity**, and also to **improve the circulation of European movies in Europe**. Therefore, it is for us a pleasure and an honour to take over the **presidency of this network**, thus showing our **commitment to the cause of independent film distribution in Europe**. In fact, **all our movies have been released by independent distributors**, most of them members of the Europa Distribution network: Cineart in Belgium, Diaphana in France, Folkets Bio in Sweden, Bim in Italy, Artificial Eye in the UK, Xenix in Switzerland, Gutek in Poland, Filmladen in Austria, Arthaus in Norway, Atalanta in Portugal, Vertigo in Spain, A-Film in the Netherlands.... We wish us for the next few years **beautiful struggles, great successes and above all a long life.**"*

The new Board of Administration, **chaired by Régine Vial (Les Films du Losange, France) and Antonio Medici (Bim, Italy)**, is composed of 13 independent European distributors, representative in terms of nationality, type of structure and cultural diversity:

BENARD Sofia, Atalanta, Portugal
BOOBERG Marie, Folkets Bio, Sweden
CARAJOPOULOU Peggy, PCV, Greece
DEGRYSE Annemie, Lumière, Belgium
FLETCHER Edward, Soda Pictures, UK
FROES Luis, Valentim, Portugal
JENSEN Svend, Arthaus, Norway
JONES Ania, Notro, Spain
OLLAGNIER Etienne, Jour 2 Fête, France
PALDY Krisztina, Budapest Film, Hungary
WEIBEL Monika, Frenetic, Switzerland