

## ***EURIMAGES and distribution support***

**EURIMAGES** is the Council of Europe Fund for the coproduction, distribution and exhibition of European cinematographic works. Set up in 1989 as a Partial Agreement, its aim is to promote the European film industry by encouraging the production and distribution of films and fostering co-operation between professionals.

### ***Structure and membership***

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The Fund is managed by a Board of Management where each member State<sup>1</sup> is represented. The Board of Management determines the Fund's policy and the conditions on which it awards financial assistance. It also selects the projects for support. It generally meets six times a year and five of these meetings are devoted to considering applications for assistance. The schedule of meetings, with application deadlines, is available from the EURIMAGES' Secretariat or on the web-site<sup>2</sup>.

The Board of Management elects its President from amongst the personalities proposed by the member States. The President's role is to represent the Fund on audiovisual policy matters, to conduct the debates and to engage in an active dialogue with professionals of the cinema sector.

The Secretariat, headed by an Executive Secretary, under the responsibility of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, ensures the administration of the Fund. It prepares the meetings of the Board and implements its decisions. Film professionals may contact the Secretariat for any advice or information they may require concerning applications to the Fund.

### ***Support for distribution***

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Support for distribution is managed by the EURIMAGES Secretariat; it is aimed at providing a system of support for distribution complementary to the Media Programme of the European Union (total amount in 2005: 837 670 €). The support is available to distributors of the member States who are not able to benefit from the support awarded by Media<sup>3</sup>, i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Turkey. In this way, distributors from these countries may apply for support for distribution support for films originating in any of the EURIMAGES member States.

Moreover, distributors from any member State may apply for distribution assistance for films originating in the six abovementioned States. No distributor, however, may apply for a film originating in its own State.

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<sup>1</sup> EURIMAGES' member States are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania (accession under way), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.coe.int/Eurimages>

<sup>3</sup> Situation as at 1st January 2006.

The Management Board of EURIMAGES decides on the amount of support to be awarded. Financial support is given towards the distribution costs. Assistance may not exceed 50% of the costs and the maximum contribution from the Fund may not exceed 8,000 euros.

Source: Council of Europe/Eurimages