

Action Committee for Artist Rights (ACAR)

ACAR meeting report
September 19, 2024
37th ITI World Congress / Antwerp, Belgium



AGENDA

Welcome, who's in the room, approval of the Agenda, minutes. Attendants:

Linnea Stara, Finland; Adam Berzseny, Hungary; Tatjana Azman, Slovenia; Ann Mari Engel, Sweden; Emilya Cachapero, USA; Jeff Fagundes, Brazil; Thomas Engel, Germany

We started with a quick analysis and discussion: What can ACAR do for Artists at Risk? The discussion revolved around the range of possible actions and their effectiveness, such as petitions, letters of protest to embassies and political authorities. There is a need to strengthen ACAR's links with national centres for action statements and support for artists in prison or facing political persecution. The discussion went on to look at the dependencies of the centres and the possible risks of acting as non-governmental organisations. We realised that we know less about their governance structures, funding and staff. The question remains: how can we achieve that the ITI as a global organisation shares its values more offensively?

As a first culture political measure ACAR will propose a resolution to the 37th World congress. The draft was coordinated within 48 hours with the attending and non-attending members of the Committee. The resolution was presented by Thomas Engel at the General Assembly on September 21st 2024 and was adopted unanimously. The resolution is attached to this report.

Election of new coordinator.

Thomas Engel, Germany, is no longer available for a further term. Tatjana Azman, Slovenia, volunteered to take over, was elected unanimously and can rely on the support of all ACAR members.

Working plan and strategies 2024-26

ACAR will continue to join forces and capacity with the Theatre in Conflict Zones Network. Together we will continue to develop an online format to showcase artists working in areas of conflict and war who do not have the opportunity to travel and be seen outside their respective communities. The project had its first successful edition in 2023 at the Grotowski Centre in Poland.

By collecting cases of violations of artists' rights and testimonies, ACAR will expand the publication of texts such as articles, essays, field reports and interviews on the situation of artists' rights with the help of other centres that have online and/or printed publication projects. ACAR will strengthen relations with festivals to organise public panels and events on artists' rights.

Report: Thomas Engel, Germany (Den Bosch, 22 September 2024)