

## **GEMA General Assembly: Members decide on the distribution of income from online music use and elect new Supervisory Board**

**The annual general assembly (AGM) of GEMA members took place between 15 and 17 May 2018 in Berlin. More than 700 composers, lyricists and music publishers in attendance elected their representatives for the Supervisory Board until 2021. The main focus in terms of content was on how the licensing income from YouTube and similar platforms received by GEMA should be distributed. During the assembly, SR 2 KulturRadio and PULS were awarded the “Radiokulturpreis”.**

About 700 composers, lyricists and publishers participated between 15 and 17 May in person at the annual GEMA General Assembly. Dr Harald Heker, GEMA CEO, stated: “I am very pleased that so many members came to Berlin this year in order to actively participate in the development of their organisation. After all, our association only flourishes if there is a comprehensive collaborative input. I would like to especially point out the increasing involvement of younger members.” Apart from the vote on new provisions and the election of the Supervisory Board and other committees, members were able to get information on topics such as licensing, distribution, politics and service offers.

### **Resolutions of the General Assembly: Distribution of licensing income from online platforms**

A regulation proposal for the distribution of the licensing income from music uses on YouTube and comparable online platforms has been in the centre of changes this year which had been resolved by the General Assembly. It was especially important to the members to take the extraordinarily broad scope of diverse repertoire into account which is used on such platforms. In the light of the very dynamic development in this sector, the Members’ Assembly decided to deal with the distribution up to and including financial year 2019, and to review the issue at the Members’ Assembly 2020. The current resolution additionally also permits a retroactive distribution of YouTube income for the years 2009 to 2016. Apart from that, further adoptions of the regulatory documentation were discussed and resolved.

### **Election of the Supervisory Board: Dr Ralf Weigand confirmed as Chairman**

The Supervisory Board of GEMA was newly elected for the next three years. The **composers** elected Jörg Evers, Matthias Hornschuh, Micki Meuser, Jochen Schmidt-Hambrock, Dr Charlotte Seither and Dr Ralf Weigand as their representatives into the Supervisory Board as well as Prof. Dr Enjott Schneider and Alexander Zuckowski as deputies. The **lyricists** will be represented until 2021 by Burkhard Brozat, Rudolf Müssig, Frank Ramond and Stefan Waggershäusen at Supervisory Board level, with Tobias Künzel and Pe Werner acting as deputies. The interests of the **publishers** will be represented in the Supervisory Board by Hans-Peter Malten, Michael Ohst, Dagmar Sikorski, Patrick Strauch and Dr Götz von Einem as well as by deputies Jörg Fukking and Diana Muñoz.

The Supervisory Board members confirmed Dr Ralf Weigand (composer) as their Chairman. Stefan Waggerhausen (lyricist) and Dagmar Sikorski (publisher) were elected as deputy chairpersons. Dr Ralf Weigand comments: "I am happy about the trust placed in me by my colleagues. Our members are GEMA's big strength. I wish to continue supporting their interests in my position. At the moment, there are far-reaching decisions and setting of waypoints is due, whose implementation will impact on GEMA's future."

### **Election of the 64 delegates of associate and affiliate members**

In the assembly of the associate and affiliate members, 32 composers, 12 lyricists and 20 publishers were elected this year, who are going to represent the interests of their colleagues in the professional group assemblies and the General Assembly of the full members over the next three years.

### **Fair remuneration: CEO Dr Harald Heker calls upon politicians and authors**

"Please do create the legal basis for a fair remuneration of creative services on the internet." This was Dr Heker's appeal to politicians in his report to the members: "The major international online platforms must finally be bound to pay authors a fair share of the financial values they generate with the works of the creators. He also drew the attention of music creators to the pan-European petition "make the internet fair": "You are all invited to sign this petition. Please bolster up the politicians who are supporting a fair Copyright Directive in Brussels. The lobby of the large online platforms must be counterbalanced by the creatives in order to make the internet a fairer place." Heker also commented on the current gender gap debate in the music industry as part of his speech: "At GEMA, we firmly believe that in the world of music, men and women should participate equally. I am therefore pleased that the provision in our Statutes which has been resolved in the course of the Members' Assembly in 2017, by means of which GEMA aims to strengthen the share of women in its governing bodies, has already started to bear fruit."

### **Radiokulturpreis [Radio Culture Award]**

The "Radiokulturpreis" which is intended to outline the importance of the cultural value of music in the medium radio, was granted to representatives of this year's award winners: SR 2 KulturRadio and PULS. Bettina Taheri-Zacher, Music Director of SR 2 KulturRadio, mentioned in her acceptance speech: "This award is a big confirmation of our daily work and our programme as well as our music strategy. We would like to excite our listeners each day anew, pick them up and take them with us on a discovery trip to musical worlds. That's what keeps us going." Thomas Müller, Programme Director of PULS, stressed: "We are extremely pleased to receive the Radiokulturpreis. Making programmes is our passion – not so much culture in the stricter sense. We aim to report about people and wish to reach people by doing so. We're on fire for making public service contents perceptible via digital means."

### **The following link contains an overview of all newly elected Supervisory Board members and delegates: [www.gema.de/die-gema/organisation](http://www.gema.de/die-gema/organisation)**

GEMA represents the copyright of more than 72,000 members (composers, lyricists and music publishers) in Germany, and more than two million copyright owners globally. It is one of the largest societies for authors of musical works in the world.

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