



## **Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights SCCR 37 – 1-5 April 2019, Geneva**

Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori (FUIS) is a Federation of trade associations representing thousands of Italian authors (writers, visual artists, screenwriters, playwrights, musicians), and working to protect their rights in human, moral and economic fields. It is the main association of authors in Italy. FUIS is a member of the IAF (International Authors Forum), which also participates in this Committee, shares its aims and supports its initiatives.

FUIS aims to bring Italian authors' voices abroad and also to collect any information from abroad which will affect Italian authors' work, in Italy or in other countries. The exchange of opinions and information is fundamental for the spread of culture in the world, also for creating solidarity among authors worldwide. FUIS welcomes WIPO as a forum for exchange not only between authors, but with those who have interests in their work, both stakeholders and governments.

Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says that " Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author". Protecting intellectual property is a duty for any nation which wishes to safeguard freedom of expression and cultural diversity.

Authors are the weakest link in the chain of culture, even if there is no culture without authors. A growing number of users aim to use authors' works without paying for them or asking permission, especially in our global society, thanks to new technologies.

When an author creates a work, he acts not only for himself but for the entire community. This is his job. And as with every job, an author's work has to be remunerated fairly when his work benefits others. Only in this way can the author continue to create.

A recent survey on the economic situation of writers, carried out by FUIS in Italy, highlighted that only 3,6 % of Italian writers get enough remuneration from their profession to allow them to live from their work.

The implementation of international and national copyright instruments are essential tools for authors to be able to make money from their work. Any changes to copyright must ensure the author is still able to be paid for their work.