



Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights: Thirty-Fifth Session

November 13 to November 17, 2017 (Geneva)

FUIS statement supporting Artists Resale Right worldwide

Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori (FUIS) is an association representing over 25,000 Italian authors (writers, visual artists, screenwriters, playwrights, musicians), and working to protect their rights.

This is the first time that FUIS has attended a meeting of this Committee. We are honoured to be here and to bring the voice of Italian authors to the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

FUIS and its members support the proposal by Senegal and Congo to include the Artists Resale Right (ARR) in the future work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, as a forum in which the concepts and implementation of ARR can be developed to high standards, to ensure it meets the needs of all stakeholders. The members of FUIS include many less well known emerging artists as well as famous Italian contemporary artists and their heirs such as Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni, Alberto Savinio, Agostino Bonalumi, Tano Festa, Giuseppe Capogrossi, Afro, Gastone Novelli and Gianni Dessì, Mimmo Paladino, Ruggero Savinio, whose works are resold all over the world.

There is no evidence that ARR has a negative impact on the art market, as the latest studies show. Indeed, the purpose of harmonisation of the right in Europe was to address the distortion in the art market created by the existence of the right in some European Member States and not in others.

ARR has also been adopted in many other countries in the world. The next step is for the ARR to be implemented in all countries, so that all artists can benefit from it wherever their works are sold. In particular, the time has come for ARR to be adopted in the United States, where many art sales are concluded and is a hugely valuable part of the global art market and therefore to creators and users of art works alike.

It's economically damaging to individual artists of any nationality and to the art market as a whole for artists not to receive a royalty payment when their works are resold; it makes the production of art works unsustainable if there is no continued investment in the source of those works – the author as the most vital resource for their creation – after initial sale, as the value of the work increases. As the art market becomes only more global this has a growing impact, limits the production of local art, cultural diversity and the production of cultural heritage.

FUIS strongly supports any initiative aiming to extend ARR to all countries of the world.

Far from having a negative impact on the art market, an ARR in all countries will stimulate the art market by providing financial support to artists and enabling them to continue creating art.