

Annual Report on the Activity of Ochranná asociace zvukařů – autorů, z.s. in 2017

The calendar year of 2016 was affected mainly by expecting the adoption of the amendment to the Copyright Act, that has an absolutely significant impact on the further activity of collective management entities. The amendment to the Copyright Act has been effective since 20 April 2017.

After the committees of the Chamber of Deputies discussed the amendment before holiday, many deputies' prints with partial or often quite complex deputies' proposed amendments appeared subsequently. It seemed to be quite important for the collective management entities to gain the support for the extensive proposed amendment of the guarantee Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. On 7 September 2016, the plenary of the Chamber of Deputies discussed the government draft law in the second reading at its 49th meeting. Nevertheless, the draft was returned to the guarantee committee after a general debate for new discussion. The Minister of Culture had the main word at the plenary meeting and his attitude to reasonable proposed amendments supported by collective management entities may be identified as expressly unfriendly. He opposed mainly the proposals that are most important for the authors and mitigate the negative impacts of the government draft. Next negotiations within the committee were held on 21 September 2016. Subsequently, the draft was planned again for the plenary meeting – second reading.

All the realistic efforts for a positive change of the Copyright Act were completely struck by a medial storm during the last weeks and months of 2016 concerning the absolutely incomprehensibly scheduled issues by collective management entities of OSA and Dilia to increase the rates for the following period.

Before sending the legislative text to the Chamber of Deputies, the OAZA representatives took part in the consultation services for several years while preparing the ministerial draft amendment to the Copyright Act; in our point of view, the majority of the work was useless already at the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic when the Ministry refused the option enhancing the protection of copyrights based on the remarks from other departments and from other externs.

The draft law was sent to the MPs in the form of press 724/0 on 17 February 2016. The organizational committee recommended to negotiate the draft law on 18 February 2016. It appointed a reporter, prof. RNDr. J. Zlatuška, CSc., and suggested the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport as a guarantee committee. The first reading was held on 6 May 2016 at the 44th meeting of the Chamber of Deputies. The draft law was ordered to be negotiated by the committees. The guarantee committee discussed firstly the draft law and on 8 June 2016 rendered a decision delivered to the MPs (the negotiations were interrupted). The committee continued with the negotiations at another meeting and on 24 June 2016 rendered a decision delivered to MPs in the form of press 724/2. The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs discussed the draft law too and on 27 June 2016 rendered a decision delivered to MPs in the form of press 724/3. The draft law was generally discussed within the 2nd reading of the 49th meeting held on 7 September 2016 and returned to the guarantee committee to be negotiated again. Due to the pressure of JUDr. P. Smolíková, Deputy Minister of Culture, the guarantee committee discussed the draft and on 29 September 2016 rendered a revised decision delivered to MPs in the form of press 724/4. The

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Committee for Public Administration and Regional Development discussed the draft law too and on 7 November 2016 rendered a decision delivered to MPs in the form of press 724/5. Within the repeated 2nd reading of the 50th meeting held on 8 November 2016 the draft law was successfully generally discussed and successfully discussed in detail on 8 November 2016 (when other proposed amendments were presented). The number of written proposed amendments was 41 as of 28 November 2016, i.e. 91 points of proposed changes (the majority concerns several paragraphs at the same time) together with the orally presented proposed amendments. The 3rd reading focused firstly on voting on individual proposed amendments and later on the final text of the Copyright Act amendment as amended by the adopted proposed amendments.

Reciprocal Contracts concluded by the collective management entity, OAZA o.s., as of 31 December 2017:

- 1) CMO SUISSIMAGE (Switzerland) for the territory of Switzerland
- 2) CMO SUISSIMAGE (Switzerland) for the territory of Liechtenstein
- 3) CMO KOPIOSTO for the territory of Finland
- 4) CMO ALBAUTOR for the territory of Albania
- 5) CMO ARMA Ukraine for the territory of Ukraine
- 6) CMO COPYDAN for the territory of Denmark

New Association offices:

Ochranná asociace zvukařů – autorů, zapsaný spolek changed its office address and postal address on 1 May 2017. It exchanged the absolutely capacity-insufficient offices at the address Žitná 49, Praha 1, that were unsatisfactory for a long time, for the representative ground floor of a historical building at the address Národní 41, Praha 1.

The offices are located in a very valuable renaissance building from late 16th and early 17th century. The building is registered in the list of immovable cultural monuments and is located in the Prague Monument Reservation which belongs to UNESCO world monuments. The building is built at the place of a former solid high fence, an old town fortification created in the thirties of the 13th century. The preserved dormers, painted ceilings, wooden floor and staircase with classical handrailing – all these elements prove the significant historical value of the real estate. The original architecture and atmosphere will be appreciated mainly by clients who are looking for an attractive location, calm and privacy in an individual building. OAZA tried to combine the great traffic availability for the represented rightholders with the premises of sufficient capacity for the development of the Association but also for archiving of the significantly extensive agenda related to the performance of the collective management during the last years. A lift is available for the rightholders moving with difficulty but the

OAZA offices are situated on the first floor of the historical building, which means it is not necessary to use the staircase. The Association disposes also of a meeting room with a unique girder manually painted ceiling. The meeting room is situated on the second floor and is free of charge based on a prior agreement not only as a meeting room for smaller negotiations of professional associations of represented rightholders but also for the organization of general meetings, trainings or presentations of copyright works.

Robert Jína

Chairman of OAZA