HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF EURIMAGES? 1

1. The competent authorities of any Council of Europe member state which wishes to accede to the Eurimages fund can send a letter, at any time, to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. This letter is generally sent by the Ministry of Culture or by the Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe of this state.

2. The Secretary General forwards this letter to the Executive Director of Eurimages who will inform the Board of Management about it.

3. The Executive Director contacts the authorities of the applicant country and requests that they prepare a report (in English and in French) describing the cinematographic situation in the country. This report is then submitted to the Eurimages Board of Management. It will notably contain an evaluation of the situation in the country in terms of the following legal, structural and material criteria:
   √ The applicant country must have legislation to protect copyright and intellectual property and regulate the audiovisual sector in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Transfrontier Television, the Convention on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights and the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production;
   √ Internationally and in the framework of international trade negotiations, it must have protected itself in the cultural sphere against the most-favoured nation clause (WTO);
   √ It must have a national production support system and an authority with responsibility for cinema;
   √ It must have a technical infrastructure linked to the audiovisual production apparatus, and a structured distribution and cinema network.

4. For practical reasons relating to the calculation of the member states’ contributions, the applicant country must supply statistical data on cinematographic production (national productions, majority and minority co-productions) for the 5 years preceding the year of its accession. Furthermore, it must be able to supply to the European Audiovisual Observatory the number of admissions in theatres by all the films released in the national territory. To that end, the applicant country should have an independent technical infrastructure for collecting cinematographic data.

5. Upon receipt of the report on the cinematographic situation, the Executive Director of Eurimages will acknowledge receipt of it and inform the authorities of the date of its examination by the Board of Management.

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1 See Article 6 of Resolution (88) 15 and Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure

2 A European non-member state of the Council of Europe may accede to the Fund, either as a member or as an associate member, provided that its application is unanimously accepted by the Fund’s member states. The European Union may also accede to the Fund under the same conditions.
6. After examining the report by the Board of Management, the Executive Director sends a letter to the authorities in which he reports on the discussions held and invites a delegation to attend the next Board of Management meeting.

7. By letter addressed to the authorities of the applicant country, the Executive Director confirms the precise date of the delegation invitation.

8. Following the interview of the delegation of the applicant country by the Board of Management, the Executive Director of Eurimages sends a letter to the authorities of the applicant country confirming the Board of Management’s recommendation and, a letter to the Secretary General, informing him of the opinion of the Board of Management.

9. If the Board of Management’s opinion is favourable, the Secretary General will request an official notification of the accession of the applicant country, with acceptance of the financial consequences and the designation of a representative to the Eurimages Board of Management.

10. The authorities of the applicant country are invited to confirm, by letter addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (with one copy to the Executive Director), their decision to accede to the Eurimages Fund.

11. The Secretary General addresses a letter to the applicant country to acknowledge receipt of the accession notification.