



CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE LIAISON
DES ECOLES DE CINEMA ET DE TELEVISION

The International Association of Film and Television Schools

6th June 2010

Centro Sperimentale di Cinema and the National Film Archive.

Via Tuscolana 1524
00173 Rome
Italy

Dear Students and to all this may concern:

On behalf of the film schools of the world, the Executive Council of CILECT, the *Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinéma et de Télévision*, wishes to register its concern about the situation of the Centro Sperimentale di Cinema and the National Film Archive. CILECT, founded in 1954, is the world association of major film schools with over 150 members from more than 58 nations.

Diverse nations such as Israel, Germany, France, Belgium, Spain and many others have established new schools and strengthened existing ones for two compelling reasons. They realize that the training of film and multi media personnel is an investment in the near-term and long-term future, because of the economic benefits that flow from these industries in the 21st century.

Perhaps even more important is the cultural imperative. Every nation has the right to its own language, its own history, its own culture, and film and multimedia are the means by which the culture is expressed for most of the people. We believe that while there may be a general argument for market forces, there is also an important cultural exception. Markets may correct themselves in the long-run, but the damage done to culture happens in the short-run and is virtually irreversible.

The Centro Sperimentale di Cinema is an active full member of CILECT. From our experience, the status of film schools in a country is a reliable indicator of the economic vision of a nation and of national self-respect. Our understanding is that Italy cares deeply about its cultural identity, and that the current government takes a long view of economic and social development.

On behalf of the member schools of CILECT around the world, we urge that Italy retain the facility of the National Film School and the National Film Archive which are highly significant institutions in Europe's film and multimedia education.

Yours sincerely,

Don Zirpolo
President

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