

IMPF Spring Assemblies

March 19-20 Berlin Germany

Sponsored by: GEMA

BuddeMusic



Hosted by: BuddeMusic and Freibank Music Publishing

IMPF



Co-funded by
the European Union

the global trade body for independent music publishers

IMPF SPRING ASSEMBLIES

19 – 20 March 2026, Berlin, Germany

Sponsored by GEMA

Location: Hotel Waldorf Astoria, Hardenbergstraße 28, 10623 Berlin, Germany

MC: Per Strömback

19 March 2026 – Day 1

0930 - 1230

IMPF Board Meeting

0930 - 1230

Networking

1230 - 1400

Lunch

1400 - 1410

Opening of Assemblies with Annette Barrett, President IMPF

1410 - 1500

Spotlight Session: Germany as a Creative Hub

This spotlight session examines how Germany's cultural and economic ecosystems are shaping the future of music and the wider creative industries—and where new business opportunities are emerging.

Speakers: **Benjamin Budde**, CEO, Budde Music Publishing, Germany; **Birgit Böcher**, Managing Director, DMV (Association of German Music Publishers), **Georg Sobbe**, Head of Research & Development, Bundesverband Musikindustrie and **Thimo Prziklang**, Director Strategy & Development, GEMA.

1500 - 1600

Panel 1: Royalty Distribution Gaps: Implications for Independent Music Publishers

Independent music publishers rely heavily on CMOs to ensure that royalties are accurately identified, matched, and paid. Yet persistent gaps in royalty distribution continue to create structural disadvantages for independents. This panel examines how these inefficiencies affect financial stability, market competitiveness, and cultural diversity across global music ecosystems. Panellists will reflect on possible industry and policy interventions, including the relevance of ongoing work at WIPO on CMO governance, potential CISAC initiatives such as shared dispute-resolution mechanisms or expanded access to CIS-Net, and the responsibility of DSPs and platforms to deliver greater transparency to support fair and balanced licensing negotiations. This conversation aims to surface practical recommendations that can lead to more efficient, equitable, and culturally representative royalty systems, systems that genuinely support independent publishers and the songwriters they represent.

Panellists: **Teri Nelson Carpenter**, Founder & CEO, Reel Muzik Werks; **Sylvain Piat**, Director Business and Technology, CISAC; **Lisa Ni Choidealbha**, Director of Media Licensing and Public Affairs, IMRO and **Michel Allain**, Senior Manager Collective Management Team, WIPO.

19 March 2026 – Day 1

1600 - 1630

Networking Coffee

1630 - 1730

Panel 2: Market Access & Growth Opportunities in Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe is one of the fastest-growing music markets, driven by streaming adoption, rising local repertoire, and cross-border collaborations. Countries like Poland, Romania and the Baltics are seeing strong digital growth, while Ukraine and the Balkans are producing globally relevant artists despite infrastructure challenges. Independent publishers should understand where catalogue acquisition, sync and local partnerships are most viable.

Panellists: **Patrycja Lobaczewska**, Head of LAS Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Baltics, Believe; **Virgo Sillamaa**, EMEE research coordinator and ex-CEO of Music Estonia; **Paulina Golba**, CEO, Golba Music Publishing, **Mitko Chatalbashev**, Regional Director for CISAC and BIEM.

1730 - 1930

Budde Bar at the Papillon - Hardenbergplatz 15, Berlin

20 March 2026 – Day 2

1000 - 1030

Formalities of the General Assembly (*For voting Members of IMPF only*)

1030 - 1100

Networking Coffee

1100 - 1230

Panel 3: AI - Licensing, Litigation & the Future of Creative Rights

As AI accelerates its influence across the music ecosystem, this panel brings together leading experts to explore how rights, revenues and creative control can be safeguarded in this new era. Speakers will discuss the latest developments in AI licensing, the implications of recent legal decisions, and how collective management practices are adapting to ensure creators retain control and benefit from the use of their works. The conversation will examine whether emerging attribution and training-data identification technologies can deliver the transparency and evidence needed to enforce rights and support fair licensing outcomes. Panellists will also consider the strength of coordinated approaches among independent music publishers and their partners. An international policy update will provide insight into evolving frameworks.

Keynote: **Axel Voss**, Member of the European Parliament

Panellists: **Kai Welp**, General Counsel, GEMA; **Tamay Aykut**, CEO & Founder, Sureel; **Anders Sogaard**, Professor of AI and Language Models at the University of Copenhagen; **Verena Bößmann**, Co-owner, Dunstan Music/Dunstan Media, Board of Directors, VUT and **Adriana Moscoso del Prado**, General Manager, GESAC; **Nicole Schulze**, Secretary General, IMPF.

1230 - 1300

Summary and Closing of Assemblies

1300 - 1400

Networking Lunch

IMPF General Assembly Agenda

The formal General Assembly of IMPF will commence on March 20 at 1000 local time sharp and run until 1030.

AGENDA

1. Roll call of Members present or represented.
2. Approval of Agenda of the GA
3. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly of 2025
4. Presentation and Approval of the Annual Report of IMPF
5. Approval of the Treasurers Report and Financial Statement
6. Any other Business

Voting for all items on the agenda is restricted to registered members only and is one vote per Member company. Proxies may be forwarded to Sylvie at the Secretariat at any time in advance of the GA to secretariat@impforum.org
