

### **SUISA distributes CHF 117 million to music creators**

**SUISA's 2010 financial statements were approved by its General Assembly today in Bern. Last year, SUISA distributed CHF 117.3 million (2009: CHF 119.5 million). After an average cost-coverage deduction of 11.95%, more than 88% of SUISA's royalty revenues were distributed to publishers, authors and composers of music. Géraldine Savary, member of the Council of States, was elected to the Board. The composer Xavier Dayer was elected President of the cooperative society.**

Bern, 18 June 2011 – The General Assembly of SUISA, the Swiss Cooperative Society of Music Authors and Publishers, today approved the Society's 2010 financial statements and elected four new members to its Board. In the reporting year, SUISA's revenues totalled CHF 142.3mn (CHF 133.2mn in tariff revenues and CHF 9.1mn in secondary revenues).

The excellent concert year and constant broadcasting revenues contributed largely to the good results. Revenues from performance and broadcasting rights, SUISA's main licensing area, reached a record peak of CHF 99.2mn. Revenues from sound carrier licensing declined by 10% to CHF 17.1mn, while income from online music uses increased to CHF 3.5mn.

#### **Suspended tariff leads to loss in revenue**

Revenues from blank media carriers fell from CHF 9.4mn to CHF 6.2mn. The blank media levy is the fee charged by way of compensation for the private copying of protected works. Because of the rapid progress in new media carrier technologies, the market is changing faster than tariffs can keep up. Today, for example, more music phones are sold than MP3 players. In March 2010, the Federal Arbitration Commission for Copyright and Neighbouring Rights had introduced a new tariff for music phones. The tariff was then suspended pending an appeal. This has cost authors about CHF 1.5mn in earnings – a hard blow indeed. The collecting societies, SUISA included, are therefore demanding that tariff adoption and revision procedures be reformed.

#### **Savary, Camenzind, Neeser and Pani elected to the Board**

Four Board members stepped down at the 2011 General Assembly: President Hans Ulrich Lehmann, Franco Ambrosetti, Betty Legler and Pierre Widmer. The General Assembly elected classical music composer Xavier Dayer (previously a Board member) President of the Board. State Councillor Géraldine Savary, composer and producer Roman Camenzind, composer and publisher Marco Neeser, and composer, producer and publisher Massimiliano Pani were newly elected to the Board. Hans Ulrich Lehmann, the outgoing President, thanked SUISA's members as well as its Board and Executive Committee for the excellent cooperation and wished the new Board all due success.

#### **Important political anchoring**

The election of Councillor Géraldine Savary to the Board of a collecting society is a particularly important sign. In spring 2010, Ms Savary brought a motion before the Council of States asking the Federal Council to commission a report on the downloading of music and to envisage possible

measures. Savary: “Nowadays, copyright law and the legal capacity of rights’ management societies are constantly in jeopardy. It is already extremely difficult to combat copyright violations on the internet. Creative work must be protected by law. This is in the national interest after all, since Switzerland thrives on its creativity and innovation”.

[Link to SUISA's 2010 Annual Report](#)

**Further Information:**

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**About SUISA**

SUISA is the cooperative society of composers, lyricists and publishers of music in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Its 29 000 members represent all the musical walks of life. SUISA represents the repertoire of two million authors worldwide in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. It licenses the world repertoire to over 90 000 clients.

SUISA employs 200 people in its offices in Zurich, Lausanne and Lugano, and realises a turnover of CHF 140 million. As a not-for-profit association, it passes on its licensing revenues, after deducting a cost coverage contribution, to authors and publishers of music.