



Press release

## **SUISA Collects CHF 148mn for Music Authors and Publishers**

**At its General Meeting, SUISA presented its financial statements for 2009: while revenues for the year (CHF 147.6mn) declined by 3% compared with year before, distributable income still reached CHF 119.5mn, only 1.7% less than in 2008. The satisfactory result was again largely due to performance and broadcasting rights, in particular radio, television and concerts. As expected, revenues from the licensing of sound carriers and private copying fell significantly.**

Zurich/Bern 26.6.2010 – The Board and Executive Committee of SUISA , the Swiss Cooperative Society for Authors and Publishers of Music, presented the Society's positive results for 2009 in Bern today. Although revenues from the licensing of authors rights declined from CHF 141.3mn to CHF 136.9mn, a decrease of 3% compared with 2008, a record year, distributable income declined only by 1.7%, to CHF 119.5mn (2008: CHF 121.6mn), thanks to lower costs (minus 8% compared with 2008). The 4% increase in revenues from performance rights, mainly generated by several successful huge events, explains the persistently high revenues. Mechanical rights (minus 10% compared with 2008) present a composite picture: although revenues from online uses continue their steep upward trend, increasing 46% to CHF 0.6 mn, they still do not compensate the loss in revenues from physical sound carriers (CDs minus 13%, or CHF 2 mn). "This result was slightly better than expected and reflects the ongoing change in the music industry", said CEO Alfred Meyer commenting the financial statements.

### **New Executive Management**

SUISA's General Meeting bid farewell to CEO Alfred Meyer who is retiring at the end of June. Jean Cavalli will also be leaving SUISA to take up his new assignment as CEO of the Société Suisse des Auteurs SSA on 1 July 2010. Alfred Meyer and Jean Cavalli led SUISA successfully for many years as members of the Executive Committee. In increasingly difficult times, they were particularly instrumental in ensuring that authors of musical works continue to receive fair remuneration. The Executive Committee will now be composed of Andreas Wegelin, CEO, Vincent Salvadé, Executive Vice President, and Irène Philipp Ziebold.



### **New CEO Appeals to Members for Solidarity**

In his speech, SUISA's new CEO Andreas Wegelin underscored the importance for the Society of its members' contribution: "Digitisation is not merely an economic challenge for authors. In Switzerland, like elsewhere, the trend is towards ubiquitous free entertainment: music, films and the like are available everywhere and the consumer is free to help himself at no charge. I am concerned when I see our members allowing their rights to be challenged. Many companies and their employees depend for their income and livelihood on people wanting to listen to music, watch films and read books. The market for cultural goods is a growing factor in our economy. It would be short-sighted to saw off the branch on which so many people are sitting – in Switzerland too. SUISA is committed to ensuring that authors continue to receive a fair share of the turnover realised with their works. And we appeal to our members for their continued commitment and solidarity in this sense."

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### **Further Information:**

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### **About SUISA**

SUISA is the Society for composers, lyricists and music publishers in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Its 28 000 members represent all musical walks of life. SUISA represents the world music repertoire of two million authors in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. It licenses the use of this world repertoire to over 80 000 clients.

With 200 employees in its offices in Zurich, Lausanne and Lugano, SUISA has revenues of some CHF 150 million. As a not-for-profit organisation, SUISA distributes its licensing revenues, net of a cost coverage deduction, to music authors and publishers.