



## A short statement regarding IMAGO's absence at CAMERIMAGE 2022

Dear Colleagues, Cinematographers, and Sponsors,

As you may or may not be aware, IMAGO was not present at the last Camerimage festival (12-19th November 2022).

The reason was that we (IMAGO) were asked by a representative of the organizers EnergaCAMERIMAGE, unequivocally not to participate in the event, and this only several weeks before it was to take place, although our president, and other members had planned to attend, and two of IMAGO's Committees had planned presentations at the festival.

The explanation and reason we received from the organizers, was that the local and central government who are sponsors of the event, made this decision because IMAGO has the RGC, the Russian Guild of Cinematographers as a member.

As we explained IMAGO voted (during the annual IAGA) not to exclude them from our Federation, since they had broken no rules and could not be held responsible of the actions of their government. IMAGO as it is stipulated in its statutes is a nonpolitical organization, and this has and would apply to any other member societies and associations in the same circumstances.

Even though the Federation chose not to exclude the RGC, currently, IMAGO does not have any direct links with the national society, whether it be in terms of finances, presence, or any kind of projects, and we are in full accord with EU Laws.

Although we respect the decision made to disinvite us, we feel it was not necessarily justified in view of the facts previously described, and hope that we can participate in the future, considering the importance of the Festival for Cinematographers and Cinematography, and our past involvement.

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