



MUSIC IN THE DIGITAL AGE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND ARTISTS' RIGHTS

ATHENS, OCTOBER 22-24, STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CULTURAL CENTER

OPENING SPEECHES

Music in the Digital Age: Streaming & Artificial Intelligence has been a three-day international forum organized by APOLLON (Greek CMO for musicians' neighboring rights) and FIM (International Federation of Musicians). Against the backdrop of **AI-generated content and the dominance of streaming platforms**, the conference examined how **revenue models, legal frameworks and artistic labor are being reshaped** in a digital economy that prioritizes scale over sustainability.

Bringing together artists, journalists, industry professionals, legal experts, academics, policy makers and technologists, the event focused on three core questions:

- How to build **sustainable and equitable compensation** models in a saturated streaming market?
- How to protect creators' rights when **AI is trained on and competes with their work?**
- What role should legislation play in **securing ethical AI and fairer digital markets** without stifling innovation?

Representing the Greek government, Deputy Minister Jason Fotilas connected the conference's agenda to Greece's deep cultural history, stressing the government's commitment to protecting intellectual property through robust legislation against modern digital piracy, which is now amplified by AI.

OPENING SPEECHES | JASON FOTILAS

Athens, October 22, 2025
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

Dear friends

It is a particular pleasure for me to be here today, representing the government and our Minister, Lina Mendoni. Initiatives such as the organization of an international conference on music, copyright, and their protection in today's digital environment align perfectly with our shared concerns and with the actions undertaken by our Ministry. The participation of the International Federation of Musicians, as well as representatives of related international organizations, major technology companies, and distinguished scholars, promises a substantial and fruitful dialogue.

Dear guests, once upon a time in this blessed land, it was as if all the forces of the universe conspired to give birth to some of the greatest and most important achievements. Our ancient ancestors created theatre, science, philosophy, and democracy. Music was an organic part of ancient drama – an inseparable element of daily life and a core component of children's education. For the Greeks, however, music was never merely a daily pleasure. It was always understood as a practice that served the timeless Hellenic ideal, the idea of the good that instills "ethos." The very words *music*, *rhythm*, *harmony*, aside from being Greek, are used internationally almost unchanged. A single passage from Plato's *Republic* is enough to reveal both the value they attributed to music and the depth of thinking two and a half thousand years ago. Education through music and poetry, he says, is the most important, because rhythm and harmony penetrate to the deepest parts of the soul, and gripping it with great power, bring order within and give it beauty.

This love for music has been preserved by our people to this day. Music has accompanied us in all our moments – the joyful ones and the difficult ones. But there is more than that. The music created in Greece by Greek composers, especially in the twentieth century, is remarkable. We are truly proud of Greek musicians, of our unique composers and our musical tradition, which is recognized as one of the most important in the world, despite the language barrier and the modest size of our country.



Today we live in a digital world. Despite the conveniences it offers, it has brought with it many dangers. Our music – and all other intellectual creations – are in need of protection now more than ever. In the modern digital universe, music and intellectual works are vulnerable. Contemporary piracy, which was always technologically advanced, now even deploying artificial intelligence, threatens to establish a regime of digital lawlessness. Protecting music and intellectual creativity in general is of vital importance. The pace imposed by the digital world compresses the time we have to respond. Continuous and tireless research is perhaps the only way to stay ahead. Our response must – it's not but it must – be instantaneous, anticipating and countering threats. Protection, as crystallized in legislation, presupposes constant monitoring of technological developments and adaptation to new realities. It is a difficult task, because, as I said, piracy always tries to stay one step ahead.

At the Ministry of Culture, under the guidance of Minister Lina Mendoni, we have taken several important steps. We drafted and passed Law 5179/2025, which helps improve the protection of intellectual property rights and strengthens our ability to effectively address online piracy. At the same time, we legislated provisions that reinforce the Hellenic Copyright Organization, making it more agile in responding to potential violations. We criminalized—and, indeed, imposed administrative penalties even on users. Because, as I often say, it takes two to tango. It is not just the one who sells illegal content; if there was no one to buy it, the seller would not exist.

We organize and support conferences, workshops, and educational actions for young researchers and creators. We also participate actively in the European dialogue on open science and access to knowledge, so that our country remains at the forefront of developments. Today, therefore, we can point to tangible, real changes we have brought about, that already contribute to the protection of intellectual works and property rights more broadly.

Of course, we all understand that this is an ongoing struggle that requires unity. We stand here ready, determined, against every form of piracy and every threat. We defend intellectual creation not only because it is our duty, but because we love it deeply – because we were shaped by it, because we exist through it! Thank you.

**Jason Fotilas,
Deputy Minister of Culture**