[ES] Spanish government approves Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Bill

IRIS 2024-7:1/25

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The Spanish government has revived the *Proyecto de ley del Cine y de la Cultura Audiovisual* (Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Bill) after it was put on hold last year following the dissolution of the *Cortes Generales* (Congress of Deputies and Senate) and the calling of elections by President Pedro Sanchez in June 2023. Various political groups had already tabled amendments to the bill, which had been endorsed by the Council of Ministers in December 2022 and submitted to parliamentary procedures in March 2023. In particular, the proposal of the right-wing political group Vox was rejected in its entirety. However, following the suspension of the legislative process, the bill will now need to go through the entire process from the beginning. For more information about the bill, see IRIS 2023-5:1/23.

Even though the cinema sector has changed significantly in recent years, the current Spanish regulatory framework is still based on the 2007 *Ley del Cine* (Cinema Law). To bring the legislation into line with the realities of the sector, the Council of Ministers again approved the Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Bill on 11 June 2024, meaning that it could be submitted to parliament for urgent debate. Under the urgent procedure, the time limits that apply to the standard legislative process are cut in half. The new law will replace the 2007 law.

The bill is expected to enter into force before 2025 as part of the government's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. Although the text is identical to the 2022 version, it will need to be discussed in parliament and parliamentary groups will be able to table amendments.

Culture minister Ernest Urtasun said that the law is designed to protect and promote the development of Spain's film industry and audiovisual heritage. It aims to strengthen the whole value chain, from script writing to cinema screening.

Particular support is earmarked for independent producers, who will benefit from priority access to film funding.

The Spanish *Ley de la Propriedad Intelectual* (Intellectual Property Law) will apply to all Spanish and foreign stakeholders involved in film production on Spanish soil, focusing on copyright protection.

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This law considers the changes in the sector since the 2007 law entered into force, as well as implementing the relevant European regulations.

Enmienda al Proyecto de Ley del Cine y de la Cultura Audiovisual por el grupo parlamentario Vox

https://www.congreso.es/public_oficiales/L14/CONG/BOCG/A/BOCG-14-A-137-2.PDF

Amendment of the Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Bill, tabled by the Vox parliamentary group

Resumen del anteproyecto de Leyd el cine y de la Cultura Audiovsiual por el Ministerio de asuntos económicos y transformación digital y el Ministerio de cultura y deporte

https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosNoticia/mineco/prensa/noticias/2022/220215_np_cine.pdf

Project summary by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Culture and Sport

Anteproyecto del Cine y de la Cultura Audiovisual

https://servicios.mpr.es/transparencia/VisorDocTransparencia.ashx?data=EEz64sUwt6nBVWCWKNtJXhOzowncPr%2fpOA4tq9pjLpjYtd4Q%2bZfl9hE7NMI73HRs2syisD21mgCoqzJsBJ0GjJCVbtnep1wJRLygs5rZ5vis3LcrVf22MPio2YRRflfXtLiuC8sWHfs2sFH6evcC8sI%3d

Text of the Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Bill

Ley nº55/2007, de 28 de diciembre de 2007, del Cine

https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2007-22439

Cinema Law no. 55/2007 of 28 December 2007

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