

DRAMA-SERIES CONVENTION

Q&A: Council of Europe drama-series convention



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Check it out



1

When will the Convention enter into force?

On 26 November 2025, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the Convention on the Co-Production of Audiovisual Works in Series. Following a special ceremony in Lille, the Convention opened for signature and now awaits signature and ratification by Council of Europe member states or parties to the European Cultural Convention.

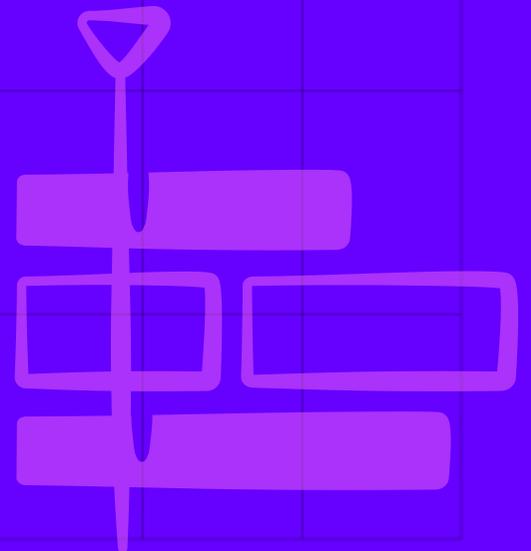
It will enter into force once three states have ratified it. The timeline will depend on the pace of national procedures.

2

Why is this new Convention important?

Series now dominate global audiovisual production and are often created through international partnerships. Building on the success of the Council of Europe's film coproduction framework, the new Convention introduces rules specifically for series, offering a tailored system for cross-border, multi-episode and multi-season productions.

This is the first international legal instrument dedicated specifically to independently initiated and co-produced television and online series.



3

How will this Convention support the audiovisual industry?

It facilitates cross-border cooperation, reduces administrative barriers, creates clearer rules for rights and revenue sharing, and improves access to public support schemes. The result is a more predictable and supportive environment for producing ambitious international series.

4

Who benefits?

- Independent producers, who gain stronger protection of rights and more equitable participation in revenues.
- Broadcasters and streaming platforms, who will have access to larger, higher-quality international projects and reduced risks when they are also co-producing.
- National film and audiovisual agencies, which can rely on a harmonised framework for recognising official co-productions.
- Audiences, who will gain access to more diverse, culturally rich content.

5 Does this Convention replace the existing Film Co-Production Convention?

No. It complements it. The long-standing Cinematographic Co-Production Convention covers feature films.

The new Convention is the first instrument created specifically for serial formats, reflecting the different financing, development, production, and distribution dynamics of series.

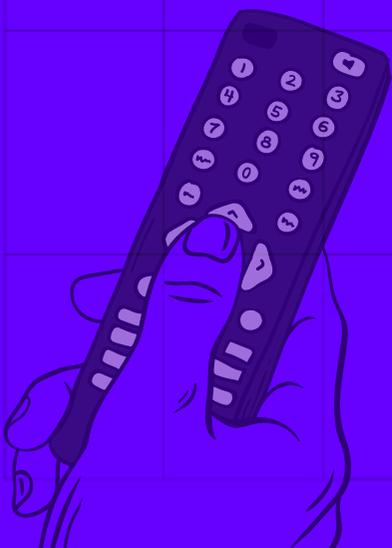


6 How does the Convention promote cultural diversity?

By encouraging partnerships between producers from different countries, the Convention supports the creation of series that showcase a wide variety of languages, perspectives, and cultural narratives. This strengthens the visibility of European stories in the global content landscape.

7 What impact will this have on independent producers?

Independent producers will see improved protection of their intellectual property, stronger negotiating positions, and better access to international financing. This helps ensure that the creative and financial value of their work remains with them over the long term.



8

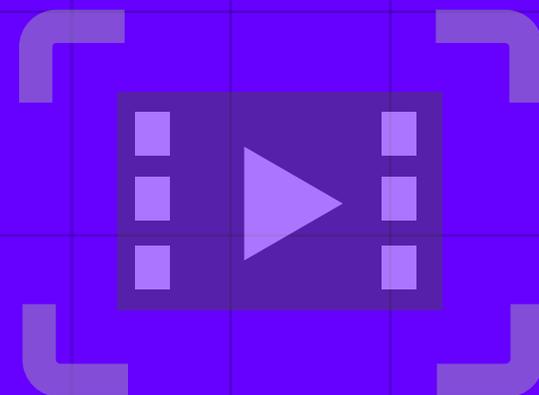
Will this have an impact on viewers?

Indirectly, yes. By strengthening cooperation and funding for serial co-productions, the Convention allows higher-quality, more diverse series to reach both European and global audiences.

9

What initiatives helped test new approaches to series co-production ahead of the Convention?

In 2023 the Council of Europe introduced a Pilot Programme for Series Co-production, a funding initiative designed to support high-quality internationally co-produced series and to strengthen independent producers while encouraging new partnerships.



10

What practical changes can producers expect?

Concrete changes will improve planning certainty and lower the risks involved in international serial production. Series qualifying as official co-productions under the Convention will benefit from:

- ⇒ Clearer criteria for financial and creative contributions.
- ⇒ More predictable rules for ownership, rights allocation, and revenue sharing.
- ⇒ Access to national financial support in participating countries.
- ⇒ Data transparency on the circulation of the work.

