

January 31, 2012

**GEMA and the German Music Publishers' Association: Get together at the MIDEM Lunch 2012**

**Numerous well-known figures in the music industry and politicians attended yesterday the traditional lunch hosted by GEMA and the German Music Publishers' Association (DMV) as part of MIDEM 2012 at the restaurant Plage Ondine. Among the guests were Hans-Joachim Otto, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Member of the German Bundestag, Bernd Neumann, Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Professor Dieter Gorny, chairman of the German Music Industry Association (Bundesverband Musikindustrie), as well the music producer Ralph Siegel.**

In his speech Dr. Harald Heker, CEO of GEMA, declared himself very satisfied with the balance of the year 2011, and he is optimistic when looking ahead to the future: "Firstly, GEMA and BITKOM, the Federal Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media, concluded a contract regarding the use of commercial on-demand music services in December last year. Secondly, we introduced a new tariff for streaming services financed by advertising. With the introduction of this new rate and the conclusion of the contract with BITKOM, we created a completely new tariff system which can be applied to all business models in the field of music-on-demand services."

Hans-Joachim Otto, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Member of the German Bundestag, also referred in his speech to the problem of Internet piracy: "At the end of the day, we will only win the fight against online piracy if we have strong international co-operation. The closing of Megaupload and the arrest of Kim Schmitz and his gang in Auckland gives me reason to be optimistic that our efforts will pay off."

In closing, Dagmar Sikorski, President DMV, Board of Supervisors GEMA, remarked on the new rates in the online area: "Hopefully the artists will also profit from the diversity of the new business models being presented currently at MIDEM."

In Germany, GEMA represents the copyrights of more than 64,000 members (composers, lyricists, and music publishers), and GEMA also represents over 2 million copyright owners all over the world. Worldwide, it is one of the largest societies for authors of music works.

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