

Hogan Lovells Berlinale event focuses on Spanish film production

For the tenth straight year, Hogan Lovells hosted its annual Film Panel during the “Berlinale” film festival. This year’s event focused on film financing opportunities in Spain and was hosted in cooperation with the Spanish Embassy in Berlin.

Spain has for a long time been a high-profile location for film productions that have received international awards. For example, during the Berlin International Film Festival 2012, the Spanish co-production, “Les Adieu à la Reine”, was the opening movie. Furthermore, the documentary, “Sons of the Clouds: The Last Colony”, by producer and director Álvaro Longoria was screened during the Berlin International Film Festival 2012, starring Oscar winner Javier Bardem. Or “The Milk of Sorrow” by the Spanish producer José Maria Morales, which was awarded the Golden Bear at the International Film Festival 2009. In light of the foregoing, the Ambassador of Spain, His Excellency Pablo Garcia Berdoy, personally gave a word of welcome to the members of the Panel as well as to all those in attendance. The Ambassador of Great Britain, Simon McDonald, also attended the event.

Christoph Wagner and Christiane Stützle, leading the international film team at Hogan Lovells, were happy to welcome our high-ranking Panel from the Spanish film industry: Susana de la Sierra (General Director, ICAA), Carlos Rosado (President, Spain Film Commission), Álvaro Longoria (producer and director), Pilar Benito (Managing Director, Morena Films), José María Morales (founder and producer, Wanda Films), Emilio Palomar and Rafael Moreno (Bankinter), Christine Rothe (Managing Director, Constantin Film), Alexandra Lebret (Managing Director, European Producers Club) as well as Patricia Sánchez (Hogan Lovells Madrid).

In the context of the panel discussion, presented by Christiane Stützle, it was revealed rather quickly how attractive Spain is for film productions. Susana de la Sierra and Carlos Rosado outlined the variety of locations, the fantastic infrastructure, and the comparatively low costs. Álvaro Longoria and José María Morales, two highly profiled producers from Spain, confirmed that impression and encouraged investors by explaining that for each project, you will find the right partner in Spain. Furthermore, Christine Rothe,



Left to right: Christiane Stützle, H.E. Pablo Garcia-Berdoy (Ambassador of Spain) and Dr. Christoph Wagner

who produced for Constantin Film “The Perfume” in Spain, mentioned the fantastic shooting conditions and the highly professional film teams in Spain, which also leads to a really good benefit-cost ratio.

Spanish tax shelters

Talk of the day was the Spanish tax shelter model, which grants an attractive production incentive of up to 30% on the production budget. The legal framework was presented by Patricia Sánchez, tax lawyer of Hogan Lovells Madrid, together with Emilio Palomar and Rafael Moreno of Bankinter and Pilar Benito from Morena Films, who also explained from her own experience that the tax shelter model works exceedingly well.

After the Panel, some 300 guests from the international film industry enjoyed good networking opportunities and Spanish food and drinks at the reception which followed. The event was accompanied by a live performance of famous Flamenco dancer Ana Maria Amahi.



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Left to right: Susana de la Sierra, Carlos Rosado, Christiane Stütze, Álvaro Longoria, José María Morales and Christine Rothe