

For immediate publication
PHIL CLAPP TO RECEIVE 2026 UNIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BRUSSELS / NEW YORK – 26 MARCH 2026 – Phil Clapp, Chief Executive of the UK Cinema Association and outgoing President of the International Union of Cinemas (UNIC), has been named the 2026 recipient of the UNIC Achievement Award.

The award recognises outstanding dedication and contribution to the European cinema exhibition sector and will be formally presented during the CineEurope Opening Ceremony in June 2026 at the Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB) in Barcelona, Spain.

Phil Clapp has worked in the cinema exhibition sector for nearly two decades. He was appointed Chief Executive of the (then) Cinema Exhibitors' Association in October 2007 and has since represented the interests of cinema operators across the United Kingdom through his leadership of the UK Cinema Association.

Phil has been a driving force within UNIC. First elected President in 2013, he has served in this role for over a decade. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently championed the cultural, social and economic importance of cinemas, strengthening collaboration across the sector and reinforcing the voice of European exhibition on the global stage.

As he steps down from the presidency, this recognition reflects Phil Clapp's longstanding dedication and service to UNIC. His contribution has left a lasting mark on both the organisation and the wider European exhibition sector.

Laura Houlgatte, CEO of UNIC, said:

"Phil has been an exceptional leader and a tireless advocate for our industry. His vision and commitment have been instrumental in strengthening UNIC and reinforcing the voice of European cinema exhibition. On a personal note, he has also been an invaluable mentor and source of guidance to me, and it has been a privilege to work alongside him. We are delighted to recognise his remarkable contribution with this year's UNIC Achievement Award."

About CineEurope

CineEurope 2026 will take place from 22-25 June at the Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB) in Barcelona, Spain. CineEurope is the longest-running and most successful European convention and trade show for major, regional, and independent cinema professionals. CineEurope will feature exclusive screenings and product presentations of upcoming films, sponsored events, timely and informative seminars and the CineEurope Trade Show. CineEurope is the Official Convention of the Union Internationale des Cinémas/International Union of Cinemas (UNIC).

About UNIC

The Union Internationale des Cinémas/International Union of Cinemas (UNIC) represents the interests of cinema trade associations and cinema operators covering 39 countries in Europe and neighbouring regions.

About Film Expo Group

The Film Expo Group is the premier organizer of events in the motion picture industry. The Film Expo Group produces CineEurope, held in Barcelona; ShowEast, held in Miami; and CineAsia, held in Bangkok.

Further enquiries

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