**PRESS RELEASE July 9th, 2016**

**NON-STATUTORY AWARDS**

**Award of International Film Critics**

Awarded by The International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI).

**Original Bliss** / Gleißendes Glück
Directed by: Sven Taddicken
Germany, 2016

Original Bliss is a distinctive, daring and provocative film, disturbing but at the same time romantic; it does not cease to surprise. The director’s thematic and artistic ambition is matched by narrative playfulness, and delivered by an exceptional performance of the three lead actors.

FIPRESCI JURY

Mihai Chirilov, Romania

Ohad Landesman, Israel

Demetrios Matheou, United Kingdom

Martina Vacková, Czech Republic

Clementine Van Wijngaarden, Netherlands

**The Ecumenical Jury Award**

**The Confessions** / Le confessioni

Directed by: Roberto Andò
Italy, France, 2016

A film with well-balanced symbolism and clean aesthetics reflecting on silence, time and human vulnerability as well as on the possibility of redemption, it calls out for breaking away from the pragmatic cynicism of powerfull decision-makers as opposed to consciousness and return to essential principles of Christianity.

The Ecumenical Jury

Susanne Charlotte Knudstorp, Denmark

Maria José Martinez, Ecuador

Joel Ruml, Czech Republic

Stanislav Zeman, Czech Republic

**FEDEORA Award**

Federation of Film Critics of Europe and the Mediterranean for the best film

from East of the West - Competition section

**Collector** / Kollektor
Directed by: Alexei Krasovskiy
Russia, 2016

In his compact script, full of meticulous observations, the director sketches the trajectory of a ruthless character, exploiting to the fullest, the concept of a single location, slowly but surely creating an atmosphere of unabated suspense, and eliciting a great performance from the lead actor, Konstantin Khabenskiy.

FEDEORA JURY

Dubravka Lakić, Serbia

Ninos Feneck Mikelides, Greece

Michael Ranze, Germany

**Europa Cinemas Label Award**

For the best European film in the Official Selection - Competition and in the East of the West - Competition.

**Original Bliss** / Gleißendes Glück
Directed by: Sven Taddicken
Germany, 2016

First of all, we would like to state that it was a great honour for us to be a part of the jury and to be allowed to watch amazing movies which made us discuss, analyse and argue and did not cease to captivate us. In Original Bliss, Sven Taddicken tells a comprehensible story, which will surely reach a broader audience and which made us want to see it again. Original Bliss is a daring exploration of faith, deviant addictions and violence told through the encounter between Helen and Eduard; but above all it is a story of acceptance and newfound freedom achieved through mutual trust and understanding. Amazing performances, lively dialogue, and witty humour make Original Bliss a highly worthy recipient of this year’s Europa Cinemas Label Award.

Europa Cinemas Label Jury

Jörg Jacob, Germany

Aiga Stengrevica, Latvia

Theodora Olivi, France

Samo Seničar, Slovenia