PRESS RELEASE - 03/02/2022

ILLICIT COMMERCIALIZATION OF LIVE SHOWS TICKETS FRENCH COMPANY GLOBAL SERVICE CONCIERGE SENTENCED FOR ITS NEXT-CONCERT.COM AND LIVE-BOOKER.FR WEBSITES

On January 13, 2022, the French consumer protection agency (the DGCCRF) announced that investigations carried out by its National Investigation Department had established that the companies WSI Live SA and Global Service Concierge had been responsible for the criminal offence of misleading commercial practices in the resale of tens of thousands of tickets for live shows. The DGCCRF specifies that this practice consisted in particular in making their customers believe that they were reselling tickets with the authorization of the organizers, even though they were acting without any authorization.

The PRODISS is pleased with the outcome of this investigation, to which it contributed by providing the DGCCRF with information on the practices of the French company GLOBAL SERVICE CONCIERGE, which operated the websites live-booker.fr and next-concert.com, as well as on its parent company, the Swiss company WSI live SA.

A judgement of the Paris Court of Justice (*Tribunal Judiciaire*) of November 12, 2020 had already granted the PRODISS claim against the company GLOBAL SERVICE CONCIERGE. The latter was sentenced to compensate the PRODISS up to 100,000 euros for the damages caused to the profession of live shows producers resulting from the violation of article 313-6-2 of the French Criminal Code, in addition to the reimbursement of 30,000 euros of legal costs incurred by the PRODISS. The company GLOBAL SERVICE CONCIERGE did not execute this sentence, leading to the cancellation of its appeal.

As a reminder, article 313-6-2 of the French Criminal Code makes it a criminal offence to sell tickets for shows without the organizer's authorization.

The judgment of November 12, 2020 also forbids GLOBAL SERVICE CONCIERGE to publish on its websites any offer of services relating to live shows tickets, and in particular their acquisition, transfer or reservation, offers of services for which it does not justify being authorized by the producer of said shows.

These sanctions are an important milestone in the fight against such behavior, conducted by operators acting in violation of the law, motivated only by pecuniary interests.

The PRODISS regularly acts before the courts against these operators, in order to protect the public against these acts.

The press release from the DGCCRF: https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/pratiques-commerciales-trompeuses-dans-le-secteur-de-la-revente-de-billets-de-spectacle?fbclid=lwAR3E R1tlZONt8wqs0PlaYuVZuTSYszAyv-Kenk0lsk-aacA7xbLZ7d6yYU

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About PRODISS - Created in France in 1984, PRODISS, the national union of musical and variety shows, is today the first representative employers' union at the national level. PRODISS brings together nearly 400 entertainment entrepreneurs: producers, broadcasters, venue operators, festival organizers, spread throughout France and working in the field of variety shows, contemporary music (jazz, popular music, musicals, etc.) and one-man shows. Together they form the chain of creation and distribution of a show. Essentially SMEs and VSEs, our members generate nearly 2 billion euros in sales, being more than 3/4 of the sales of the entire musical and variety show sector.