

New tariff cuts for farmers



Film posters at the ICAIC headquarters in Havana (source: [DaddyCell/Commons](#))

Cuba's film industry is also suffering from the current economic crisis. The venerable Cuban Institute of Cinematography and Cinematic Industry ([ICAIC](#)) lacks funds. Now the government wants to take countermeasures and allow private film production companies for the first time, as [reported by](#) the news portal *Cubadebate*.

Private production companies allowed

As ICAIC president Alexis Triana Hernández announced at a press conference, a new working group has been set up at the Council of Ministers to oversee the restructuring of the film industry. The aim is to better promote Cuba's filmmakers and to use the scarce resources as effectively as possible. To this end, the ICAIC's 65 years of experience will be drawn upon and new avenues will be opened up.

For example, the Cuban film fund is now allowed to finance independent private projects. And the country's 65 independent filmmakers can professionalize and set up their own production companies as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This gives them a legal identity for the first time, which should make it much easier for them to work with national and international partners.

Film commission introduced

In addition, the forms of remuneration in state institutions have been updated. As Hernández explained, this has enabled the implementation of a demand from filmmakers that had been outstanding for almost four decades. As a result, personnel working in film production are no

longer necessarily tied to rigid salary scales, which offers more freedom in the design of contracts.

In addition, the new law, which was [published](#) in the official gazette as “Acuerdo 9941” on Friday and comes into force immediately, provides for the introduction of a state film commission. Although this already formally exists, in practice it has not played a role so far, explained Hernández. Now the commission will become the central government agency “to promote the production of audiovisual and cinematic projects”.

Its main tasks include promoting talent, promoting Cuba as a film location, providing logistical and technical support for film projects, and developing new production guidelines. The commission includes representatives from various ministries, such as culture, tourism, foreign trade, finance, and defense.

As Hernández emphasized, the reform includes new instruments to provide Cuban film production with greater legal support. The new framework is intended to give the domestic film industry a boost after the sector has faced many challenges in recent years.

[\(Cubaheute\)](#)