

**Press release**

**EBOOKS IN EUROPE , LET’S GO FORWARD**

The Federation of European Publishers and the European Booksellers Federation welcome the initiative of Vice-President Neelie Kroes, in charge of the digital agenda, to gather the stakeholders engaged in ebooks creation, production and distribution. The round table on e-books is taking place this Tuesday 26 June 2012.

In preparation of this round-table, Mrs Kroes said "*I am so pleased that all the parts of the book value chain are coming together to look at practical actions to grow the eBooks market. Consumers obviously want these products, these sources of inspiration. There are many actions we can take right now to increase consumer choice, so I want to hear from all the interested parties about how we can take these actions quickly and together*."

Ahead of the meeting, EBF and FEP have sent a joint statement (see enclosed) to all participants stressing that book trade stakeholders thrive to be present on the various ebook markets of the European Union and therefore the issue of interoperability and availability are key for our sector.

Publishers and booksellers will also insist on the importance to allow Member States to tax ebooks at the same lower rates as printed books. They will emphasise the damages piracy does to this nascent market.

The following publishers will be present

Jesús Badenes, Planeta (Spain) <http://www.planeta.es/es/ES/Default.htm>

Riccardo Cavallero, Mondadori (Italy)  <http://www.mondadori.com/>

Barbara Jozwiak, PWN (Poland)  <http://www.pwn.pl/>

Joachim Kaufmann, Carlsen (Germany)  <http://www.carlsen.de/>

Richard Kitson, Hachette (United Kingdom)  <http://www.hachette.co.uk/>

Alain Kouck, Editis (France)  <http://www.editis.com/>

John Makinson, The Penguin Group (United Kingdom)  <http://www.penguin.co.uk/>

Stefano Mauri, Mauri Spagnol (Italy)  <http://www.maurispagnol.it/>

Sam Bruinsma, Brill (Netherlands)  <http://www.brill.nl/>

Hedwige Pasquet, Gallimard Jeunesse (France)  <http://www.gallimard-jeunesse.fr/pre-index-GJ.php>

Rüdiger Salat, Holtzbrinck Verlagsgruppe (Germany) <http://www.holtzbrinck.com/>

Frank Sambeth Random House (Germany)  <http://www.randomhouse.de/>

According to the recently released classement of worldwide publishers, among the 50 largest publishing group, 1st group is Pearson (including the Penguin Group), 5th Hachette, 6th Planeta (including Editis), 8th Random House, 9th Holzbrinck, 33rd Mondadori, 34th Gruppo editorial Mauri Spagnol, 46th Gallimard. <http://www.livreshebdo.fr/Contacts.aspx>

The following booksellers will attend the round-table

Guillaume Decitre, Decitre (France) [www.decitre.fr](http://www.decitre.fr)

John McNamee, Eason (Ireland) [www.easons.com](http://www.easons.com)

Fabian Paagman, Paagman (Netherlands) [www.paagman.nl](http://www.paagman.nl)

Jean-Luc Treutenaere, Cultura (France) [www.cultura.fr](http://www.cultura.fr)

The following have also been invited Cristina Musinelli, Board member of the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF) responsible for the ebook standard ePub3 <http://idpf.org/epub/30> , Ronald Schild, CEO of Libreka, a German collective initiative to facilitate e-commerce of ebooks <http://www.libreka.de/> and Régis Habert, Izneo, a comic book portal <http://www.izneo.com/> .

The Federation of European Publishers (FEP) is the voice of publishers in Europe representing 27 national publishers’ association across the European Union and the European Economic Area. European publishers employ directly 150.00 persons and hundreds of thousands indirectly. In recent years it has generated an annual turnover of some 23-24 billion €, corresponding to an estimated market value of over 40 billion €. [www.fep-fee.eu](http://www.fep-fee.eu)

The European Booksellers Federation [“EBF”] is a non-commercial umbrella organization representing national Booksellers Associations in the European Union within the EU and the EEA. Through its members, EBF speaks on behalf of more than 25,000 individual booksellers. Depending on the country, booksellers represented include independent booksellers, national bookshop chains, supermarkets, internet retailers and other cultural or general outlets selling books. It is estimated that the whole European book industry accounts for more than half a million jobs in the European Union.

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