



FRANKFURT DECLARATION 10/10/2017

The Federation of European Publishers and the European publishers under its representation welcome the participation of the Ministers of Culture in the Frankfurt Book Fair, one of the publishing sector's leading global events, demonstrating a commitment to European book stakeholders.

The importance of books and of reading for the cohesion of Europe and of its citizens has never been called into question.

Nevertheless, a certain number of national and European policies have a decisive influence on this sector, for which cultural diversity is paramount.

Publishers affirm the importance of a strong European book industry, both within Europe itself and at an international level.¹

With regard to the EU copyright reform, European publishers are asking that copyright be protected, asserting that it is fundamental for authors and their publishers, and that it is a vital basis of creation and an essential source of the vitality in the sector.

They believe that this approach should be an integral part of a European work programme for culture and, in particular, for books in the digital age. It should fit into a strategy which promotes free choice and access for readers to a wide range of diverse works while providing fair remuneration for these works and supporting the sustainability of the book economy.

It is essential that solutions be put in place to allow authors, publishers, bookshops and libraries to continue to play the important and complementary roles they occupy within European society. Publishers highlight that this means that licensing solutions must be prioritised over new exceptions to copyright. When exceptions are justified, they will need to preserve the legitimate economic interests of the sector in order for future investment to remain feasible. Exceptions should not be the rule and when implemented, compensation must be foreseen for all relevant parties.

When a work is used under an exception, both the author and the publisher need to be properly compensated for this use. The review of the copyright framework in the Digital Single Market offers a chance to address this issue and to clarify that both authors, and publishers, by virtue of their contracts with these authors, are rights holders, and can therefore receive a share of the fair compensation.

¹ 7 of the world largest publishers (non Chinese) are Europeans, study realised by Livres Hebdo



Furthermore, publishers strongly request that European copyright should not be discussed as a collateral issue within the framework of other initiatives which concern different subject matters, if it is not to be undermined. This includes proposals on digital content, geo-blocking and accessibility.

Publishers also argue that alongside the proposals made within the framework of the Digital Single Market, it is indispensable and urgent to make sure that these rights are properly enforceable through an update of the current legislation, especially in the field of online activities.

Last but not least, on the fiscal front, European publishers welcome the proposal in December 2016 to allow Member States to tax e-books with a reduced rate of VAT and to call on the governments to rapidly conclude an agreement to allow all EU countries to benefit from this regime. European publishers are also supportive of effective competition policies and of re-establishing level playing field.

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The Federation of European Publishers represents 28 national publishers' associations of books and journals in Europe. www.fep-fee.eu