

IFRRO responds to EU consultation on "Fair Compensation for Acts of Private copying"

IFRRO has questioned the purpose of the European Commission's paper on "Fair Compensation for Acts of Private copying". It has a restricted focus on "private copying" but addresses issues with consequences also for reprography without including this sector specifically in the analysis. The implementation of Directive 2001/29/EC is a matter for national governments and reflects national conditions. Decisions on equipment and media to be covered by the levy and on the rate are agreed with stakeholders concerned. Where there is a levy system to remunerate copyright holders for certain uses of their works it is generally supported by the creators and publishers concerned. It operates well and consistently and represents a way to compensate rightsholders for some of their potential losses. There is no evidence that it leads to a distortion of the market. [See full submission.](#)

WIPO Committee discusses exceptions and limitations

At its meeting on 10-12 March, the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) decided to prepare a comprehensive work plan at its next meeting on exceptions and limitations and to further enhance understanding of the issue. It requested that a study be undertaken by the WIPO secretariat on exceptions and limitations in relation to educational activities and distance education, including trans-border aspects. It also stressed the need for prompt action to improve access to protected works by visually impaired people. A study on exceptions and limitation for libraries will be published shortly. IFRRO made a [submission](#) on which it opposed a proposal put forward for an international instrument on minimum set of mandatory exceptions and limitations to the exclusive rights.

Joint IFRRO Board meeting with CISAC

A joint Board meeting was held with CISAC (Confédération Internationale des sociétés des Auteurs et Compositeurs). Co-operation between the two federations is already taking place on the development of the ISTC and ISNI. The joint Board meeting discussed collaboration on other important issues such as regional development and awareness raising and a joint position on the

proposal put forward at the last WIPO SCCR meeting on a set of mandatory minimum set of exceptions and limitations to the exclusive rights. This was the first ever joint IFRRO-CISAC meeting on this level and reflects the need for rightholder representatives across sectors to cooperate in raising awareness on the importance that copyright brings to society.

Publishers Licensing Society encourage publishers to opt-in to Collective Digital Licensing

As more material is published in electronic form, PLS is working with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) and Copyright Licensing Authority (CLA) on a series of new licences. These will enable licensees to reuse digital material to the usual CLA license limits and for a very limited use and will allow PLS to distribute copy royalties to publishers, who will no longer need to deal with low-level permissions. The more publishers opt-in to the license, the more attractive it will be for licensees. ALCS welcomed the introduction of these new digital licences as a first step towards ensuring fair access to digital content for users balanced with fair remuneration for rightsholders.

New Zealand Copyright Law updated

The New Zealand Parliament has just voted to update the 1994 Copyright Act to bring it into the digital age. The Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Bill clarifies how copyright applies to today's digital technologies and provides a technology neutral framework adapted to the rapid development of digital technology. While welcoming the new bill, IFRRO member Copyright Licensing Ltd (CLL) was concerned that the changes to the legislation may be insufficient to comply with New Zealand's international obligations. [See article on CLL site.](#)

Stichting Reprorecht prolongs copyright agreement for Dutch private sector.

Under Dutch law, businesses, organizations and institutions are able to make photocopies of copyright protected materials for internal use only, provided that they pay a fee to rightsholders via Stichting Reprorecht. Agreements with national employment associations, VNO-NCW and MKB-Nederland, have been extended for the period 2007-2008 with an increase of the fees by 2%.

Amendment to the Danish copyright act

Amendments to the Danish Copyright Act to address the digitization of the cultural heritage will come into force July 2008 and will, inter alia, extend the scope of the extended collective licence. The changes affect in particular "orphan works" and mean that the user will be able to make an agreement with the relevant approved rightholder (representatives) on exploitation of work in other areas than at present.

New Danish agreement gives 215.000 students renewed access to written works

Following a survey, which revealed discrepancies between payment and actual copying, and five years of negotiations, the Danish universities and business schools and Copydan Writing negotiated a new licensing agreement that will allow the institutions to continue to reproduce copyright works while guaranteeing rightholders an economical incitement to continue the production of new textbooks and literature.

AGECOP becomes 51st IFRRO RRO

IFRRO welcomes Associação para a Gestão da Cópia Privada (AGECOP), Portugal's RRO, as a member of IFRRO. AGECOP was set up in 1998 by the three main Portuguese writers' and visual creators' associations and the two book publishers associations and becomes IFRRO's 51st RRO member.



IFRRO General Meeting 2008 in Jamaica

This year's AGM will take place in Montego Bay (Jamaica) 27-31 October and will, in addition to the General Meeting itself on 30 October, include creators' and publishers' gatherings, a Digital Issues Forum (DIF) an international seminar on Friday 31 October. [See website.](#)

Author heads up Mexican RRO

On 1 April 2008 the Mexican RRO, CeMPro, appointed Dr Fedro Guillén Rodríguez, an author of more than 20 books as its Chairman for a two year period.

New RRO established in Namibia

The Namibian Reproduction Rights Organisation (NAMRRO) was launched on 27 March 2008 in the presence of the Namibian Director, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The General Manager is Mr Moses Moses. The main challenge

for NAMRRO is to strengthen the membership base. IFRRO was represented by Mr. Greenfield K. Chilongo, the IFRRO Regional Development Representative in Africa.

IFRRO Welcomes New Staff

IFRRO is pleased to welcome two new members of staff. *James Boyd*, has worked for 15 years in CEN (The European Committee for Standardization) and is finalising a degree in journalism. He will be responsible for communications and product development, IFRRO work on technical standards, publications and communication and information strategies. *Wiebke Dalhoff* comes to IFRRO with experience in media marketing, event management and book selling. She will be responsible for the IFRRO website, events (including the AGM) and planning for the dissemination of information and awareness-raising linked to IFRRO projects. Our thanks and best wishes accompany *Joy Foster*, who has moved on to other challenges.

Open meeting in Iceland

Iceland is a country of literature with a record number of books per capita, *Halldór Birgisson* of Fjölis, the Icelandic RRO, told an open meeting on Access Management and digitizing the European Cultural Heritage organized by Fjölis and IFRRO in cooperation with the University of Reykjavik. *Bernt Hugenholtz* of the University of Amsterdam described his study on Limitations and Exceptions to Copyright and proposed codifying a limited mandatory set. But *Magdalena Vinent* of CEDRO said that IFRRO saw no need for further legislation and pointed to its initiatives to provide easier access to knowledge through interoperable standards. Two national experiences of digitizing cultural heritage were illustrated by *Helge Sønneland*, special advisor to the Norwegian Minister of Culture and Church Affairs and by *Benjamin White* of the British Library. A panel of distinguished copyright experts guaranteed a lively discussion.

EVENTS May-June 2008

12-15 May, [28th IPA publishers' congress](#), Seoul, Korea

16 May, [22nd annual conference on international audiovisual law](#), Cannes, France

4 June, [MILE seminar IPR Solutions](#), St George's Bay, Malta

29 June - 2 July, [Writers' and Literary Translators' International Congress](#)

Stockholm, Sweden