

THE EUROPEAN AUTHORS' PETITION TO REMOVE ARTICLE 12 FROM THE DIRECTIVE ON COPYRIGHT IN THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET (COM/2016/0593)

ARTICLE 12 OF THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET DIRECTIVE THREATENS THE COPYRIGHT, CONTRACTUAL FREEDOM AND LIVELIHOOD OF AUTHORS

The authors and their national organizations, the signees of this petition oppose the article 12 of the proposed DSM Copyright Directive COM/2016/0593. The article, which concerns the publishers' right for compensation, is against the basic principles of copyright, and threatens the contractual freedom and livelihood of authors. Instead of improving the conditions of European digital single market, the passing of the article would cause serious market disturbances in several countries.

THE ARTICLE 12 SHOULD NOT BE PASSED, BECAUSE

IT IS AGAINST THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF COPYRIGHT

The basic principle of copyright is that the author of a work is always a natural person, i.e. a human being. Creating rights to publishers directly through legislation would be contrary to the basic principles of copyright – the individual author has the right to decide which rights to grant. Publishers get all the rights they need through the contracts between the author and the publisher.

IT LIMITS CONTRACTUAL FREEDOM IN AN UNPRECEDENTED WAY

The weaker contractual position of authors is widely recognized and accepted. The proposed article 12 would further weaken the position of authors in relation to publishers. Limiting contractual freedom by legislative measures to the detriment of the weaker party is not acceptable. On the contrary, the duty of the legislators is to protect the weaker party.

IT WOULD WEAKEN THE LIVELIHOOD OF AUTHORS

In several countries the copyright remunerations for authors, among them the public lending remuneration, enable them to continue doing creative work. Dividing the remunerations with the publishers would seriously weaken the possibilities of authors to continue in their chosen profession. In Nordic and Baltic countries – as well as in many other European countries – the public lending remuneration has always been a compensation solely aimed for the creators of works.

IT CAUSES DISTURBANCES IN THE BOOK MARKETS AND CAUSES FRICTION BETWEEN AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS

The article is hastily drafted and its impacts on the book market and the livelihood of the authors are not sufficiently studied and assessed. Instead of improving the working of the single digital market, it would cause market disturbances and weaken the publishers' business opportunities as at least some authors would become self-publishers.

IT IS TERMINOLOGICALLY UNCLEAR AND INTRINSICALLY CONTRADICTIONARY

If passed, the article would create a legally unclear situation. Additionally, the articles of the proposed directive are contradictory and their impact scattershot.

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT

The passing of the article would cause several practical problems and heavy administrative costs. Before distributing the remunerations, each individual work would have to be checked to find out to whom the compensation should be given and how it should be divided.

IT IS PROBLEMATIC IN THE LIGHT OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Article 12 is problematic in the light of the principle of subsidiarity, and it should be taken into account that, according to the European Union treaties, the Union's role in cultural issues is only to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the member states. The public lending remunerations are an issue of cultural politics in all the countries supporting this petition.

IT MAY HAVE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS TO THE WAYS USE OF LITERATURE WILL BE REMUNERATED IN THE FUTURE

As it is impossible to foresee the ways literature will be used in the future, the undesirable effects of the compensation for publishers prescribed in the Article 12 have to be taken into account.

The member states of the European Union have a wide array of legislative arrangements and principles for the copyright remunerations, which in their part enable livelihood for authors and the development of national culture. These structures have developed to support each country's unique cultural field, and especially in small language areas, it would be fatal to destroy practices that have proven to be effective.

The copyright and authors' organizations in the signing countries appeal to the members of the European parliament to remove article 12 from the DSM Directive. If it is not possible to move the article from the directive, the member state discretion must be secured and the original wording of the Commission must not be changed to the detriment of authors.

OCTOBER 11, 2017

THE SIGNEES

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

CZECH REPUBLIC

DILIA – Theatre, Literary, Audiovisual Agency, Association

ESTONIA

Estonian Writers' Union

FAROE ISLANDS

Fjølrit – The Faroese Copyright Society | RIT – Society of Faroese Authors

FINLAND

The Association of Finnish Non-fiction Writers | Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters | Grafia – Association of Visual Communication Designers in Finland | Kuvittajat – the Finnish Illustration Association | Sanasto – Finnish Literary Copyright Society | Society of Swedish Authors in Finland | The Union of Finnish Writers

ICELAND

The Writers' Union of Iceland

ITALY

Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori – Italian Writers' Federation

LATVIA

The Writers' Union of Latvia

MALTA

Maltese Language Academy | National Book Council, Malta

NORWAY

Grafill – Norwegian organisation for visual communication | NOPA – the Norwegian Society of Composers and Lyricists | Norwegian Authors' Union | Norwegian Association of Literary Translators | The Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association | Norwegian Society of Composers | Norwegian Writers for Children | Writers' Guild of Norway

SPAIN

The Association of Catalan Language Writers

SWEDEN

ALIS – Administration of Literary Rights in Sweden | The Swedish Association of Educational Writers | The Swedish Association of Professional Photographers | Writers Guild of Sweden

Any organization willing to join this petition may contact Sanasto – Finnish Literary Copyright Society: info@sanasto.fi

CZECH REPUBLIC

DILIA – Theatre, Literary, Audiovisual Agency, Association



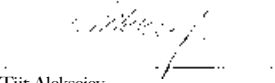
Vadim Petrov
Chairman, Author



Jiri Srstka
Executive Director

ESTONIA

Estonian Writers' Union



Tiit Aleksejev
Chairman, Author

FAROE ISLANDS

Fjølrit – The Faroese Copyright Society



Atli K. Petersen
Chairman, Composer



Helle Thede Johansen
Board Member, Author

RIT – Society of Faroese Authors



Sissal Kampmann
Vice-chairwoman, Author



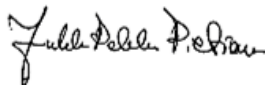
Helle Thede Johansen
Secretary, Author

FINLAND

The Association of Finnish Non-fiction Writers



Markku Löytönen
Chairman, Author



Jukka-Pekka Pietiäinen
Executive Director

Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters



Heikki Karjalainen
Chairman, Author



Kristiina Antinjuutti
Executive Director

Grafia – Association of Visual Communication Designers in Finland



Antero Jokinen
Chairman, AD



Katri Soramäki
Executive Director

Kuvittajat – the Finnish Illustration Association



Sari Airola
Chairwoman



Heli Halme
Executive Director

Sanasto – Finnish Literary Copyright Society



Virpi Hämeen-Anttila
Chairwoman, Author



Anne Salomaa
Executive Director

Society of Swedish Authors in Finland



Peter Sandström
Chairman, Author



Johanna Sandberg
Executive Director

The Union of Finnish Writers



Jyrki Vainonen
Chairman, Author




Sivi Oinonen
Executive Director

ICELAND

The Writers' Union of Iceland



Kristín Helga Gunnarsdóttir
Chairwoman, Author



Ragnheiður Tryggvadóttir
Executive Director

ITALY

Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori – Italian Writers' Federation



Natale Rossi
Chairman, Author



Simone Di Conza
Executive Director, Author

LATVIA

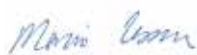
The Writers' Union of Latvia



Arno Jundze
Chairman, Author

MALTA

Maltese Language Academy



Dr Mario Cassar
President



Joseph P. Borg
Secretary

National Book Council, Malta



Mark Camilleri
Executive Chairman

NORWAY

Grafill - Norwegian organisation for visual communication



Catherine Louise Finstad
Chairwoman, Illustrator

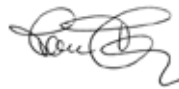


Vigdis Skogli
Executive Director

NOPA - the Norwegian Society of Composers and Lyricists

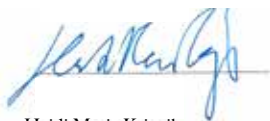


Ingrid Kindem
Chairwoman, Composer and Songwriter



Tine Tangestuen
Executive Manager

Norwegian Authors' Union

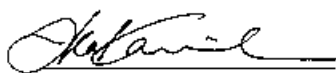


Heidi Marie Kriznik
Chairwoman, Author

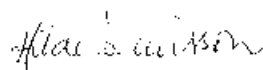


Mette Moller
Secretary General

Norwegian Association of Literary Translators



Ika Kaminka
Chairwoman, Author



Hilde Sveinsson
Executive Director

The Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association



Marta Breen
Chairwoman, Author

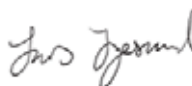


Tore Slaatta
Secretary General

Norwegian Society of Composers

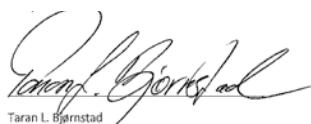


Jorgen Karlstrom
Chairman



Lars Igesund
Executive Director

Norwegian Writers for Children



Taran L. Bjørnstad
President

Writers' Guild of Norway

Monica Boracco
Chairwoman, Author



Eli Bangstad
Acting Chief Executive

SPAIN

The Association of Catalan Language Writers



Bel Olid
President

SWEDEN

ALIS - Administration of Literary Rights in Sweden



Sus Andersson
Chairwoman, Journalist



Helen Asker
Managing Director

The Swedish Association of Educational Writers



Wiwi Ahlberg
Chairwoman, Author



Jenny Lundström
Executive Director / Chief Legal Officer

The Swedish Association of Professional Photographers



Ann-Katrine Almqvist
Chairwoman



Åsa Anesäter
Executive Director

Writers Guild of Sweden



Pia Gradvall
Chairwoman



Susin Lindblom
Managing Director