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Vivan Reding at the FEP Annual Rendez-vous

Vivian Reding, European Commissioner in charge of the Information Society and Media will speak to Interoperability and New Business Models at the FEP Annual Rendez-vous on 16 October.

IPA Confront Web Issues in Frankfurt

The International Publishers Association is hosting two web-related events at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The International Publishing Update 2008 will be on online piracy of e-books and asks the question “Will the Internet kill publishing”. The Future of Publishing Dialogue will be discussing how to prepare publishers for Web2 and the e-book future. It will look at the future of copyright and rights management on the Internet and how can publishers shape tomorrow’s markets. Both will take place Friday 17 October.

IFRRO at the Frankfurt Book Fair

As the past two years IFRRO has a stand at the Frankfurt book fair to facilitate meeting with IFRRO and its membership from the RROs and the authors, visual artists and publisher communities. Visitors are welcomed at N 910 in Hall 8.

IFRRO AGM (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING) 2008

The IFRRO AGM 2008 takes place in Montego Bay 27-31 October (www.jamcopy.com/index.php?id=55) and includes an international seminar on the administration of Intellectual Property Rights in smaller and vulnerable economies open to the public. Key Note speakers at the seminar are WIPO Deputy Director Michael Keplinger, Ambassador Honourable Dr. Richard Bernal from the Inter American Development Bank on integrating small and vulnerable economies in the multilateral trading systems, and Colman Gota Thompson from SGAE’s Legal department on multi-territory licensing in the light of the EC decision on the Statement of Objection against CISAC and CISACs appeal.

COPYRIGHT LEVIES

IFRRO publication "Copyright levies and Reprography" available now

A new IFRRO publication on "Copyright levies and Reprography" is available online now. The brochure sets out to clarify the levy system in the context of reproduction of text and images. It outlines the legal background and explains how it is administered according to local circumstances to provide rightholders with a financial reward, to which they are entitled for the reproduction of the copyright works they have originated. The publication has been worked out in cooperation with the IFRRO Equipment Levy Forum (ELF).

Stakeholder talks start on copyright levies

Stakeholder Working Groups have started discussions on two topics indentified in the European Commission initiative on Copyright levies. Fifteen Representatives of Rightholder groups, IT industry and consumer groups met to discuss the "grey market", which relates to import of equipment, devices and material to be levied whether the import is inter-communitarian or not, and on refund systems, where the equipment is subsequently exported. It will later be clarified whether there is a basis for and, if so, what that basis is for the establishment of working groups on tariff methodology and on the issue of piracy.

CISAC APPEALS AGAINST THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION’S COMPETITION DECISION

CISAC (International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers), has asked the Court of First instance of the European Communities annul the European Commission Decision of July 16, 2008. In parallel, 22 authors’ societies of the European Economic Area and member of CISAC have also appealed against the EC Decision. CISAC considers European authors’ societies have not engaged in concerted practice that restrict competition and have therefore not violated European competition law provisions. It believes that the network of authors’ societies – organised through reciprocal representation agreements between societies – best serve creators’ interest. It claims that the Decision has put an end to promising initiatives of CISAC and its members to develop an alternative and consensual pan-European licensing model for online use of creative content.

CEDRO WINS MULTIFUNCTIONALS CASE

The Madrid Provincial Court has sentenced Lexmark to pay compensation to CEDRO for private copying for its multifunctional machines in Spain. The IT company had refused to pay since 2001 on the grounds that the machines were not autonomous copying machines and needed to be connected to a computer. The court ruled that this did not affect its basic copying function and that Lexmark should pay 1.5 million EUR plus
interest and all the legal costs. It will also have to include the multifunctional machines in its quarterly reports to CEDRO.

WIPO
Francis Gurry appointed Director General
At the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), meeting from 22 to 30 September 2008, Mr. Francis Gurry, an Australian national and 23-year veteran of WIPO was announced as Director General. He succeeds Dr. Kamil Idris, who served as DG since 1997.

Folklore/TK/TCE Gap Analysis
At its 12th session in February 2008 the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Generic Resources, Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Folklore requested two gap analysis from the WIPO Secretariat related to Folklore, TK and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE). The analyses which are available on http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/gap-analyses.html describe what obligations, provisions and possibilities already exist at the international level for protection of Folklore, TK and TCE and set out gaps that exist on an international level. The documents will be discussed by the Intergovernmental Committee 13-15 October.

Donor Conference to sustain Development and Intellectual Property Activities
The WIPO General Assembly agreed to convene a donor conference in 2009 with a view to establish a trust in particular for the benefit of Least Developed Countries (LDC) to facilitate activities discussed by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP).

CeMPro reaches schools and Universities
The Mexican RRO, CeMPro has again organized child workshops at book fairs. Around 3,000 kids per year attend these workshops, give them a simple explanation about intellectual work and the importance of respecting other’s ideas. They are also made aware of the piracy issue. At the same time CeMPro has been reorganizing its licensing department with impressive results. Around 70 new photocopying shops (mainly around schools and universities plus 5 new universities have signed contracts (licenses) to make legal copies.

New RROs in Tanzania and Zambia
On 10 October Kopitan, the Tanzanian RRO, counting the main rightholder associations of publishers, writers, illustrators and composers among its members, was launched. In accordance with the Tanzanian legislation it will operate under COSOTA (Copyright Society of Tanzania). Mr. Abdullah Saiwaad from the Publishers Association of Tanzania (PATA) was elected Chair of a 9 member interim Board with a remit to call for an ordinary General Assembly. A well attended national seminar open to all stakeholders was organized to celebrate the launch of Kopitan.

ZARRSO (Zambia Reproduction Rights Society) was established on 8 October in Lusaka as the national RRO. It will operate in close co-operation with ZAMCOPS, the multi-purpose collective management organisation in Zambia. Ms. Brenda Mukata was elected Chair of the interim Board.

Changes in RRO Administrative Leadership
COPYDAN Writing (Denmark)
The Board of COPYDAN Writing has appointed Mr. Anders Kristian Rasch who has been with the organization for a number of years as its new Managing Director starting October 1st 2008. He succeeds Niels-Holm Svendsen who has retired.

COSOMA, Malawi
Mrs. Dora Makwinja who has worked many years in COSOMA is now the Acting Copyright Administrator & Executive Director of COSOMA, Malawi, after Serman Chavula stepped down on October 1st, 2008.

EWC publishes Mare Nostrum IVProceedings
The European Writers’ Council (EWC) has published the proceedings of the Trieste 2007 Twenty-first Congress and Forum “Trieste, its Macro-region and Europe: A multicultural tradition and a contribution to an intercultural European future”. This includes a section on the European Year of Intercultural dialogue (EYID) by the EWC Secretary General. Copies of the book can be obtained by contacting the EWC Secretariat at EWC-Secretariat@inter.nl.net.

Events October-November 2008
15-19 October, Frankfurt Book Fair
27-31 October IFRRO AGM week hosted by Jamcopy, Montego Bay, Jamaica.
24-25 November, Conference on collective management of copyright and related rights, Brussels, Belgium.