

IFRRO STATEMENT ON COPYRIGHT EXCEPTIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Resolution adopted by the IFRRO Annual General Meeting on 8 November 2017

The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO), at its Annual General Meeting in Tokyo, urges European Union decision-makers currently scrutinising the proposed Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (“DSM Directive”), to fully consider the consequences for authors and publishers in the text and image sector. In particular, the sustainability of the sector depends on the continued possibility for authors and publishers to provide innovative and flexible licensing solutions, including via collective management, and receive payment for the uses of their works, coupled with the possibility to receive a share of fair compensation when exceptions are applied.

It is in society's interest that the text and image sector is sustainable and can continue to innovate and invest in quality materials. This helps increase citizens' access to knowledge and promotes cultural diversity across Europe, as well as increasing jobs and growth. It is important that the future legal framework for copyright encourages such possibilities.

Under EU and international law, exceptions and limitations should only be applied in certain special cases which do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work or other subject matter and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the rightholder. IFRRO and its members are however concerned that various proposals currently under discussion would in fact risk such a conflict with normal exploitation and unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of authors and publishers.

In particular, the proposed exception for “illustration for teaching” must remain narrowly focused and apply only where no adequate licences are available. Where the exception does apply, there must be mandatory fair compensation for authors and publishers for all uses under the exception. Without these requirements, authors' and publishers' revenues will be put at risk, jobs will be lost and students will ultimately have less diverse, quality, innovative content to benefit from.

We ask EU decision-makers to support this approach, which ensures that there will continue to be incentives to create and invest in content, to the benefit of society as a whole.

About IFRRO

IFRRO has 144 members in 80 countries, representing the creative and publishing communities. The creative industries and the cultural sector are fundamental to the digital economy, and pivotal in sustaining national culture and cultural identity.