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Ms Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission
Ms Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner
Mr Michel Barnier, Internal Market and Services Commissioner
Greek Presidency and Members of the Council of the European Union
Members of the European Parliament

European research institutions, libraries and archives need balanced copyright laws to fulfill the promise of the Innovation Union

Copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives are currently being discussed by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Standing Committee on Copyright & Related Rights (SCCR). The undersigned organisations feel they must express their deep disappointment following the European Union's unwillingness to progress text-based discussions on this topic at the last meeting of the SCCR. In doing so, the European Union tried to reverse conclusions that had been previously agreed by the SCCR.

The undersigned European and international research institutions and library and archive organisations strongly urge the European Union and its Member States to ensure that text-based discussion of an international instrument on copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives continues to be reflected in the mandate of the SCCR, and that the European Union engages constructively in these discussions. These discussions are important for:

1. Fostering a cutting-edge, open international research culture

The European Union has identified **international research and development collaboration** as key to the success of the Innovation Union and the Europe 2020 initiative. Indeed, European countries are leading the world for international co-authorship.¹ European research institutions need a research infrastructure that is *globally oriented* and supports seamless access to information *across national borders*,² outside as well as within the EU.

The EU has also identified open access to research outputs as key for Europe as a means of supporting a more collaborative and open way to do science. Researchers are using new tools and methods to support research outputs, and copyright laws should facilitate, not stifle, this. The talks at WIPO potentially could lead to the world's libraries and archives being better able to open up their own cultural and scientific collections to European citizens and researchers.

2. Ensuring future researchers have access to our digital-borne heritage

70% of total global journal publishing revenues are generated from academic library subscriptions.³ Despite libraries being the single biggest purchaser of scholarly publications, future researchers are in danger of being unable to access significant portions of our 20th and early 21st century digital heritage. Access to information in the digital environment is increasingly restricted by licensing and digital locks, which prevent libraries and archives from being able to

¹ As on 2012, France was ranked number 1 in the world for international co-authorship (50.0%), followed by the United Kingdom with 47.6%:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263729/bis-13-1297-international-comparative-performance-of-the-UK-research-base-2013.pdf

² A recent study identified 253 cross-border higher education programs (covering only branch campuses or franchising agreements) operating in the EU: http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/study/borders_en.pdf p. 38.

³ Ware, M, The STM Report: An Overview of scientific and scholarly journal publishing, http://www.stm-assoc.org/2012_12_11_STM_Report_2012.pdf (page 19)

preserve culture and research outputs for the future. National approaches to this problem fall short, because digital information researchers are accessing is now global.

3. Making European cultural heritage globally accessible

European libraries and archives possess rich collections of information that are important for the research and study of history within Europe, and its historical influence on other cultures. Today populations are mobile and multicultural, and the internet holds the promise for libraries and archives to be able to open up Europe's collections to the world. This would also enhance the economic development of some of the world's poorest countries by better supporting access to education and research.

The copyright challenges for libraries and archives

Copyright laws still stop at the national border, both within the European Union and elsewhere, frustrating the efforts of libraries and archives whose mission is to ensure that people, regardless of their location and regardless of their means, have the potential to access Europe's culture, history and scientific research. The European Union's strong objection to text-based discussions of copyright exceptions and limitations at WIPO is particularly concerning in light of the Commission's own ongoing consultations about updating Europe's copyright laws, to better serve its Single Market.

The aspirations of the Internal Single Market are to support innovation, increase productivity, ensure the seamless flow of information and access to knowledge within EU borders, as well as encourage the creation of new copyright-protected works. Robust copyright exceptions and limitations are essential to this.

The international copyright framework is not working

The European Union has stated at SCCRs that the existing international copyright framework provides sufficient policy space for domestic copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives [\[link\]](#). Libraries, archives and research institutions at the most recent meeting of the SCCR provided ample illustrations of the challenges they face in the cross-border internet environment, where national exceptions are no longer enough [\[link\]](#). In short:

- Under the existing treaties, copyright protections are **mandatory** while copyright exceptions are **optional**. This entrenched imbalance results in a patchwork approach to copyright exceptions in domestic copyright laws, with the public interest in education, scholarly research and innovation, and cultural preservation de-valued, in contrast with private interests.
- Increasingly, national copyright exceptions do not apply for libraries and archives. Licence terms set by publishers, often from other countries, override many exceptions in domestic copyright laws, and these terms can vary widely from licence to licence.
- This patchwork of national exceptions and the complexity of the licensing environment are frustrating international collaboration, and placing libraries and archives in an ambiguous position.

The undersigned organisations believe that a balanced and effective international copyright framework should support robust discussion of exceptions and limitations to copyright, as well as protections for creators. **This can only be to everyone's benefit.** We ask the European Union to continue discussions of international copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives at WIPO in good faith, and progress Committee work towards an international solution.

Yours sincerely,

[list of signatories on the next page]



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche Association of European Research Libraries



international council on archives conseil international des archives



knowledge without boundaries



Stowarzyszenie



Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals



- International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA)
- Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche | Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER)
- Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)
- Scottish Council on Archives (SCA)
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
- European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)
- Poznańska Fundacja Bibliotek Naukowych | Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries
- S towarzyszenie EBIB | Electronic Library Service EBIB
- C ity of Malmo Public Library
- Federación Española de Sociedades de Archivística, Biblioteconomía, Documentación y Museística (FESABID)
- Svensk Biblioteksörening
- University of Westminster