



SCCR/24/4
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
DATE: JUNE 9, 2012

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

Twenty-fourth Session
Geneva, July 16 to 25, 2012

ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Annexes to this document list some non-governmental organizations that have requested observer status in sessions of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), according to the SCCR's Rules of Procedure (see document SCCR/1/2, paragraph 10).

2. *The SCCR is invited to approve the representation in sessions of the Committee of the non-governmental organizations referred to in the Annexes to this document.*

[Annexes follow]

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE REQUESTED REPRESENTATION AS OBSERVERS IN SESSIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)

Society for the Collective Administration of Performers' Rights (ADAMI)

ADAMI is a society for the collective management of performers' rights. It operates on a non-profit basis. For over fifty years, ADAMI has been collecting and individually distributing the remuneration due to more than 25,000 actors, singers, musicians, conductors and dancers for the use of their recorded audiovisual and sound works. ADAMI collects and distributes performers' remuneration within three legal frameworks: legal licenses, such as equitable remuneration and private copying remuneration, which represent the main part of the revenues; additional remuneration due to performers under specific collective agreements concluded in the audiovisual field; and reciprocal representation agreements concluded with foreign collective management societies. ADAMI undertakes the distribution of the collected remuneration in an effective and transparent way. ADAMI has also a duty to defend performers' rights and to act in order to safeguard and develop them, on the national as well as on the international levels, in both the musical and audiovisual fields. It has always contributed to the discussions taking place at the European level. Furthermore, ADAMI has continuously followed the discussions at WIPO SCCR meetings with other NGO representatives.

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[Annex II follows]

Communia International Association on the Public Domain (COMMUNIA)

COMMUNIA is an international association without lucrative purpose, a form of international NGO, under Belgian law. Members of its General Assembly are based in the United States, Germany, Greece, Slovenia, Macedonia, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Poland and Italy. COMMUNIA's aims are to have a presence in the political agenda in Brussels and Geneva, to participate in international meetings and consultations and to lead research on the public domain understood at large, including exceptions and limitations to copyright, Open Access and Creative Commons licenses. The mission of COMMUNIA is to foster, strengthen, and enrich the public domain. To fulfill its mission, COMMUNIA will raise awareness in, educate about, advocate for, offer expertise on and research about the public domain in the digital age within society and with policy-makers. It aims at maintaining and reinforcing an international network of NGOs and members that constitute reference for policy discussion and strategic action on all issues related to the public domain in the digital environment. Its activities include publications, participation in meetings, conferences, research projects, consultations, studies, representation towards institutions, collaboration with other organizations in Brussels, in Europe and worldwide. COMMUNIA seeks to contribute to a positive agenda at SCCR, starting with current work on libraries, archives, educational and research institutions. Strong exceptions and limitations will protect the user and lead to the creation of new works, and support a more balanced Intellectual Property regime. The public domain has been effectively diminished by extending the terms of protection, and the Association wants to reaffirm how much societies and economies rely on a vibrant and expanding public domain.

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[Annex III follows]

German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (DBSV)

DBSV is a member organization of the European Blind Union. Hence it maintains close relationships with the 45 member countries where EBU is represented. The aim of DBSV is to make a lasting improvement to the situation of the 1.2 million blind and partially sighted people currently living in Germany. It is therefore committed to the creation of equal conditions for the blind and partially sighted, their societal and professional integration, as well as improvement of their social status. As a self-help organization, DBSV represents the interests of blind and partially sighted people. It combines and coordinates the public appearances and efforts of 20 regional associations which in turn look after about 250 local organizations with a total of more than 37,000 members. In order to facilitate access to everyday activities for blind and partially sighted people, DBSV is active in the fields of accessible IT applications and access to all forms of literature. The activities of DBSV include: impacting the creation and implementation of new German laws, as well as new EU directives and regulations; fighting for compensatory measures to offset the disadvantages resulting from this disability; pushing for accessibility in all areas of life, especially as regards the right to information; supporting the development and provision of suitable technical devices; promoting the education and vocational training of blind and partially sighted people; continuing to develop counseling and support services. DBSV is professionally interested in the WBU proposed Treaty on Copyright and the Visually Impaired and in the outcomes of the Stakeholder Platform.

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[Annex IV follows]

Featured Artist Coalition (FAC)

The FAC was primarily formed to protect the interests of featured artists, which are always musical performers but are often also musical authors. A main objective of the FAC is to give featured artists a direct voice on the world stage particularly in relation to copyright and related rights and to rights in contract particularly concerning recording and publishing agreements. The FAC represents featured artists on all matters that affect their careers, including lobbying governments and other institutions with the creator's viewpoint and seeking to influence industry practices. The FAC seeks a fair deal for featured artists particularly in the context of digital distribution and delivery and to ensure that wherever music is used or consumed that the featured artist always receives a fair payment no matter how small. Featured artists are at the heart of all the issues currently under discussion at the SCCR. The FAC supports any move that provides international harmonization of copyright law. The internet is by definition a global phenomenon and we need global harmonized copyright law so that copyright can be exercised with certainty when works and recordings are used beyond national boundaries. FAC is very concerned that the proposed new treaty for broadcasters does not adversely affect the copyright and related rights that are currently enjoyed by existing stakeholders. It supports the idea of a global limitation and exception for the visually impaired.

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[Annex V follows]

International Authors Federation (IAF)

The aims of the IAF are: to represent the needs of authors (writers, artists and journalists); to promote and protect authors' rights internationally and to lobby in the international arena; to get authors' organizations collaborating and developing an international view on the importance of authors' rights; to strengthen existing regional authors' organizations and facilitate the sharing and communication of information; to emphasize the need for fair contracts; to counter arguments from the Copyleft movement regarding free access to content. The main activities of the organization include: building and maintaining a robust and self supporting membership of authors' organizations bringing together a worldwide network of authors' organizations; consulting within international organizations such as WIPO to ensure that its activities are not harmful to the rights of creators; working with IFRRO and other bodies to facilitate a strong authorial presence in terms of lobbying and copyright awareness activities; working with partner organizations on events that give an international platform to authors; advocating the authors' role in society and in particular the copyright issues at stake. Authors find themselves increasingly at the forefront of legislative changes with regard to access to content. Authors, artists and writers need to be at the core of the debate balancing the genuine need for exceptions with the dangers of exceptions impacting on the ability of authors to make a fair living from their creativity. The IAF works with authors organizations throughout the world representing many hundreds of thousands of writers and artists. It can ensure that the views of the creator are not missing from those key discussions.

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[Annex VI follows]

International Association of IT Lawyers (IAITL)

IAITL works to foster the exchange of knowledge about regulatory concepts related to information society and their implementation. It also encourages practitioners, scholars and students of law to engage more fully with the IT industry, policymakers and members of the general public to become more fully involved with the way IT affects the law, policy and the way IT is used. IAITL engages in discussions with a wide range of external parties including those responsible for the formulation of laws and policies in the copyright, privacy, and e-commerce fields and for the enforcement of legislation. IAITL is actively involved in conducting capacity building for finding adequate solutions to upcoming regulatory questions and collaborates with other partner institutions on publicly funded projects dealing with security and copyright. IAITL participates directly in policy making by submitting comments and proposals to various initiatives of the European Union including IPR related matters in the information society. Copyright in the new media is one of the most important fields of study for the organization. All the topics under discussion in the Standing Committee have been researched and are continuously being studied by its members for submissions to relevant authorities and journals.

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[Annex VII follows]

Society for Media for Blind and Partially Sighted People (MEDIBUS)

The main aim of the association is to promote, contribute and ensure the provision of accessible information for blind, partially sighted and other print disabled people in the German-speaking countries. MEDIBUS represents the interests of visually impaired and other print disabled people with the right owners of copyrights and related rights as well as with the organizations of such right owners and the collecting societies. Other activities are: to support members in initiating and coordinating projects of transregional importance or impact; to campaign for media products accessible to visually impaired and other print disabled people; to promote the establishment and maintenance of quality standards. Its members and beneficiaries are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. MEDIBUS is professionally interested in the WBU proposed Treaty on Copyright and the Visually Impaired and in the development of the Stakeholder platform.

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[Annex VIII follows]

The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD)

The SADPD is a technical agency, established in 2003, that promotes guidance and tools for disability mainstreaming and capacity building. It is active in 25 countries and represents the only user-led agency in Africa involved in bridging the gap between policy formulation and implementation. SADPD uses demand-led approach in working with political structures, governments and civil society in shaping disability programs and projects; the latter have various objectives including strengthening the involvement of civil society organizations in the policy implementations processes and lobbying to position disability at the centre of government planning and political commitments. Its members are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired. The SADPD is professionally interested in the WBU proposed Treaty on Copyright and the Visually Impaired and in the development of the Stakeholder platform.

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