

Copyright Committee Post-Congress Report 2018

The Copyright Committee's open meeting in Leipzig was well attended, with eighteen delegates representing eleven different countries.

The main focus of the meeting was discussion of the findings of the two studies that had been circulated during the year on the topics of copyright duration and copyright exceptions as they apply to printed music and sound recordings in different countries.

During the meeting some of the key themes were discussed, and it was agreed that the next step would be to contact respondents separately to seek clarifications and additional details where necessary before making the comparison documents available on the IAML website.

The next agenda item was a discussion brought to the table by Luuk Hoekstra (the Netherlands) on the subject of the use of excerpts of sheet music by conservatoires and universities in educational readers. Luuk described how the parameters set by the collective management organization that manages these rights in the Netherlands are very unclear and that Dutch colleagues were seeking to have these better defined. Delegates compared the exceptions and/or licences that exist for this purpose in their own countries.

The Chair then reported on two more general matters. Firstly an overview of the work of the WIPO, and more specifically the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, including the action plans drawn up for activities taking place up till the end of 2019. Finally, a summary of the current state of play of the European Commission's proposals for the modernisation of EU copyright rules, including a new directive on copyright in the digital single market which seeks to adapt EU copyright laws to the digital environment. There are positive aspects to the proposal (e.g. provisions for text and data mining, preservation and out of commerce works) but also some areas of considerable concern (e.g. the necessity to filter user generated content uploads, the ability of press publishers to charge for linking to their content and the prohibition of using more than one exceptions at a time). On 5th July the majority of MEPs voted to reject the proposal in its current form. MEPs will have the opportunity to put forward amendments and a further vote will take place at the plenary session on 12 September. Delegates from EU member states were encouraged to write to their MEPs to point out both their concerns with the current proposal, but also those parts of it which they would wish to remain in the event of further amendments being put forward.

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Chair, Copyright Committee