

Copyright Committee Congress Summary Riga 2017

The Copyright Committee held an open meeting dedicated to the consideration of the national copyright survey that had been issued earlier in the year. The survey was circulated to national branches and also via IAML-L. Responses to the survey had been received from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, UK and the USA.

Each respondent had been contacted prior to the Riga congress and encouraged to attend the Committee's meeting (or propose another representative) in order to closely interrogate the responses, address any queries arising from them, and consider appropriate next steps.

It was agreed that, as well as publishing each country's response individually (as had occurred in previous incarnations of the survey) one of the benefits of collecting the data was to present comparisons in particularly pertinent areas such as length of copyright term and exceptions and limitations to copyright. This would assist in terms of promoting a greater understanding of cross-border applicability of exceptions (e.g. in the case of a document supply request from a library in one country to a library in another) and also provide useful documentary evidence for individual countries' lobbying efforts for copyright reform. A particular issue that arose was the fact that in some countries exceptions to copyright specifically precluded printed music.

It was agreed that the Chair of the Copyright Committee would send all responding countries a follow-up structured pro-forma for completion, limited to the areas identified for comparative treatment.