



European Network for Copyright in Support of Education and Science
www. ences.eu
Bogotastr. 4
D-14163 Berlin

Berlin, Nov 28th 2014

Pavel Svoboda
Chair, Legal Affair Committee
European Parliament

Re: Future Development of Copyright in Europe

Dear Mr. Svoboda,

ENCES (European Network for Copyright in Support of Education and Science) is an EU-wide network of organizations and individuals in science and education who share the view that copyright is a socially valuable construct and that the primary objective of copyright is to promote the progress of science, education, and culture as public goods.

ENCES fully supports the letter of Nov 17th 2014 from LIBER to you, in which LIBER expresses serious concern that the interests of librarianship, research and education are not adequately represented in the current process of developing an education- and research-friendly copyright system in the EU.

While LIBER is primarily an organization representing university libraries as well as national libraries, ENCES is one of the few European organizations to focus on the interest of science and education in having full and open access to the published knowledge of the world and on the promotion of copyright regulation making it possible to achieve this goal.

ENCES, in coordination with the German Coalition for Action “Copyright for Education and Research”, was one of the first organizations to suggest a comprehensive copyright clause/exception in favor of science and education in order to overcome the unreasonable restrictions of existing copyright systems – unreasonable in particular considering the potentials of electronic environments for science and education.

The current German government in its coalition agreement from last year adopted the concept of such a comprehensive copyright exception to replace the current, very limited exceptions in copyright law. Copyright, at least with respect to science and education, is momentarily more a disabling factor than an enabling means for the progress of research and development and for innovation in the economy in general.

It is obvious that the process of improving German copyright law, and particularly of replacing the various exceptions in favor of education and science and of intermediaries such as libraries, must be compatible with EU law and should be coordinated with the intended and already initiated copyright reform in the EU.

ENCES supports LIBER's appeal for a follow-up to the event of Nov 11th, "with a second one looking at the Future Development of Copyright Law from the perspective of technology-driven education, R & D and libraries." Please include ENCES in the process of building a science- and education-friendly copyright system in the EU. ENCES is willing and able to provide more information about the concept of a science- and education-friendly comprehensive copyright clause/Exception and looks forward to becoming an active partner in the EU copyright reform process.

Sincerely yours



Prof. Dr. Rainer Kuhlen

Chair of ENCES and Speaker of the German Coalition for Action "Copyright for Education and Research"