



European Bureau
of Library,
Information and
Documentation Associations

The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) calls on the European Commission to open in-depth discussions on copyright reform as the Licences for Europe process fails to address key concerns of libraries and their users.

BRUSSELS, 13 NOVEMBER 2013 – On the occasion of today's [Licences for Europe \(L4E\) plenary meeting](#), EBLIDA calls upon the European Commission to acknowledge the lack of concrete results from the Licences for Europe process, and the need for urgent copyright reform.

Since the beginning of the process, EBLIDA has warned about the risk of an incomplete dialogue narrowly focusing on licences where the whole process should have embraced copyright reform as a whole¹.

Although licensing has an important role to play, it cannot be the only solution for the many issues discussed during Licensing for Europe. There should have been enough openness in the discussion to propose alternatives to licensing solutions when market and/or technology based solutions prove to undermine the users' rights to access and store digital content.

As a result, the eight months process in avoiding the salient issue of copyright reform has proved to be unsuccessful. Because of a narrow pre-determined agenda, it was not possible to ensure that users' views were heard in these discussions, and that their concerns and demands were voiced properly.

Exceptions and limitations to copyright aim to balance the exclusive rights of the rights holders with other fundamental rights, and should be considered an essential part of the copyright framework. Under the current copyright regime, they are often overridden by licences that undermine the rights of users. This reality creates a distorted balance of rights that needs to be addressed in order to create a flexible copyright regime.

There is no need to further postpone in depth discussions on copyright reform. On the contrary, the time for copyright reform at the European level has come. We expect the Commission's forthcoming review of the European copyright acquis to take full account of the needs of European libraries and archives.²

EBLIDA will be pleased to fully participate in this review in a meaningful way and offers its expertise to work on copyright reform to better serve European citizens via a vibrant and up-to-date digital environment for libraries.

¹ Letter of 26 February 2013 (<http://www.eblida.org/news/licences-for-europe-a-stakeholder-dialogue-text-and-data-mining-for-scientific-research-purposes-working-group.html>), letter of 3 April (<http://www.eblida.org/news/the-scope-of-working-group-1-licences-for-europe.html>), letter of 26 May 2013 (<http://www.eblida.org/news/commission-response-to-stakeholder-letter-on-licences4europe-text-and-data-mining.html>)

² http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/docs/2014 Markt_005_copyright_acquis_en.pdf



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About EBLIDA

The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) is an independent umbrella association of library, information, documentation and archive associations and institutions in Europe representing 116 members in all EU member states and other European countries, as well as by extension 70.000 libraries in Europe.

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