European Parliament Hearing – The Future of the European Book Sector

(Hybrid, 21-03-2023)

**Purpose:** Tomasz Frankowski, MEP, is going to produce a report on the future of the European book sector, in which he must propose concrete resolutions. The draft report (max. 3 pages) must be submitted in one month. The presentation of the report is in May.

**Recommendations issued by participants:**

1. Acknowledge and strengthen libraries and their role in reading promotion and literacy;
2. Protect editorial diversity (i.e. allow private and small publishers) and promote fair competition in the sector;
3. Tackle the industrial challenges (e.g. children books are not printed in Europe due to lack of infrastructure);
4. Create and ensure compliance with social, cultural and labour laws to ensure fair remuneration and fair contracts for authors and translators;
5. Equip authors, translators and publishers with the knowledge and accommodations to be successful (e.g. social training, tax and legal advice, accommodation for disabilities);
6. Design and implement a robust system for data collection regarding the circulation of books and e-books in Europe;
7. Foster cooperation among all shareholders, including authors, translators, publishers and libraries (e.g. support networking events, peer training, knowledge sharing);
8. Make books and e-books themselves accessible (e.g. large print, braille), but also facilitate access to them (e.g. accessible online services, payment);
9. Increase awareness and compliance with accessibility laws, namely the European Accessibility Act and the Marrakesh Treaty (e.g. via training, guidance, the establishment of responsibilities and accountability, provision of funding to SME for this purpose, include accessibility requirements when providing EU funding);
10. Remove the compensation scheme of the Marrakesh Treaty entirely (at the moment, those who adapt works into accessible formats must pay compensation to the publishers of original works);
11. Analyse the impact of previous measures to promote public lending (e.g. taxes);
12. Involve authors and translators in policy-making;
13. Create and strengthen e-book ecosystems to increase digital literacy and reduce regional differences;
14. Recognise the potential of print for reading comprehension, particularly in education;
15. Recognise the role of print in accessibility (e.g. people with limited digital literacy, disabilities, and those chose not to use digital tools);
16. Recognise that sustainability is already at the core of publishers’ work (e.g. most of the printed materials come from recycled paper or sustainable forests).

**Participants**

- Tomasz FRANKOWSKI, MEP, Rapporteur
- Anne BERGMAN-TAHON, Director, Federation of European Publishers, FEP
- Quentin DESCHANDELLIERS, legal advisor, Federation of European Publishers, FEP
- Cecile DENIARD, Coordinator, European Council of Literary Translators' Associations, CEATL
• Catherine STARKIE, Head of legal affairs, International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations IFRRO
• Daniel CASAS, Accessibility Policy Officer, European Disability Forum, EDF
• Antoine FOBE, Head of Advocacy and Campaigning, European Blind Union, EBU
• Nina GEORGE, President, the European Writers’ Council, EWC
• Giuseppe VITIELLO, Director, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, EBLIDA
• Luca MOLTMANN, Public libraries 2030, PL2030
• Stephen WYBER, Member of the Knowledge Rights 21 management committee & Director of Policy and Advocacy at IFLA
• Beatrice KLOSE, Secretary General, Intergraf