

Tell the EU not to force bookshops out of the e-book business

Brussels, 19 June 2017

Today, the European and International Booksellers Federation – EIBF – launches an online petition asking the EU not to force bookshops out of the e-book business and to preserve a rich and diverse e-book offer for European consumers.

Through this campaign, booksellers reiterate their concerns about the inclusion by the European Parliament of non-audio-visual copyright protected content, such as e-books, in the scope of the Geo-blocking Regulation, and call on the Council and the Commission to maintain their original stance of non-inclusion, accompanied by a 5-year review clause.

Booksellers all over Europe fully support the objectives of the Commission’s Digital Single Market Strategy and are very keen to take advantage of this opportunity to put more e-books in the hands of as many readers as possible, all over Europe.

Said Fabian Paagman, EIBF Co-President: *“Booksellers in the Netherlands are among the most innovative booksellers in Europe and we are ready to seize the opportunity to sell e-books as well. Many of us do it already and we are looking forward to grasping the opportunities that the Digital Single Market offers, in order to sell our e-books not only in the Netherlands, but also abroad.”*

Every business aims to grow and bookselling is no exception. However, even if the bookselling industry is looking forward to expanding its activity, and offer as many e-books as possible to its customers, wherever they are located, booksellers need more time to assess consumer demand and to solve technical problems, which, for the moment still hamper cross-border sales.

Said Jean-Luc Treutenaere, EIBF Co-President: *“These new constraints will entail significant costs for booksellers. Some traders will just stop selling e-books because it is too costly. Others will have to make financial choices to the detriment of their offer and services to customer”*

In a nascent market, the profitability of which still has to be demonstrated, forcing traders to offer e-books across borders at this point in time would, in the end, be detrimental to European consumers: many SMEs could be forced to exit the e-book market and far from opening up the single market to consumers, this would be highly detrimental to cultural diversity and consumer choice in the EU, and only beneficial to major non-European international platforms.

Sign the petition: www.change.org/geoblocking - Watch our video: www.vimeo.com/eibf/geoblocking

More info & FAQs: www.europeanbooksellers.eu

EIBF – The European & International Booksellers Federation represents the interests of the bookselling industry. Its Members are National Booksellers Associations in the European Union and beyond. Their Members, in turn, are all kinds of booksellers: brick and mortar, online retailers, independents and chains.

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