



26 July 2016

Joint Statement on Ms Sylvie Forbin's nomination as Deputy Director General for Copyright and Creative Industries Sector at WIPO

We, the undersigned organisations accredited as observers at WIPO, congratulate Ms Sylvie Forbin on her nomination as Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector at WIPO.¹

Ms Forbin's CV indicates that she will bring valuable experience of government and business to her new role.

We note that the Sector she will head is renamed 'Copyright and Creative Industries Sector', dropping 'Culture' from the title in favour of 'Copyright'. We trust that her leadership will prove that this does not indicate a change of emphasis by WIPO away from the promotion of and support for the needs of the cultural heritage sector in relation to copyright.

We look forward to briefing Ms Forbin on the vibrant and welcome contribution of civil society to WIPO's work on copyright and related rights, bringing the voice of those who utilise and consume culture and knowledge into the discussion.

Within civil society, we should not forget, are the creators, scholars and scientists of today and tomorrow.

In particular, we look forward to talking with Ms Forbin about the vital role libraries, archives and museums play in the creative and discovery process in support of culture, education, research and scholarly communication, as well as their important economic contribution to the creative industries.

An immediate challenge will be to demonstrate quickly to Member States and all copyright stakeholders that in her new role, Ms Forbin will be taking a carefully balanced approach to benefit the public interest, taking account of the needs of rightsholders, users, research and education, thus reflecting the goals of copyright itself.

We do not pretend that the task is an easy one. It means striking the right compromise between the interests of those who make a living from their creativity and those whose lives are improved by being able to access culture and knowledge, between the interests of commercialised culture and small scale creators who value recognition over revenue, between the bottom line of industry and the public interest.

¹ http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/govbody/en/wo_cc_72/wo_cc_72_2.pdf

We look forward to working productively with Ms Forbin to continue to drive WIPO's copyright work in a direction that finds this balance and provides benefits to all.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
International Council on Archives (ICA)
International Council of Museums (ICOM)
European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)
Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)
Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA)
Society of American Archivists (SAA)
Scottish Council on Archives (SCA)
Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
Karisma Foundation
Innovarte
Archives and Records Association UK and Ireland (ARA)

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