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Androulla VASSILIOU

*Member of the European Commission*

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Dear President,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2013 regarding the Working Group on cross-border access and portability in the stakeholder dialogue 'Licences for Europe'.

We understand that, thanks also to the active and constructive participation of your representatives, there was a rich and productive discussion in the last round of meetings of this Working Group, in particular on interlibrary loans in the digital environment (a topic proposed by EBLIDA) and digital music services. We appreciate that your organisations ensure that users' views are heard in these discussions, and that their concerns and demands are voiced properly.

You have expressed concerns that the mandate of the Working Group does not cover discussions on legislative reforms.

As stated in the Commission's Communication of 18 December 2012, the Commission is working on two parallel tracks of actions, the review of the EU copyright legal framework and the stakeholders dialogue Licences for Europe. The Commission's objectives in the dialogue are to work as an incubator for win-win solutions for all stakeholders. Practical, market-led solutions can improve the situation for users much faster than a possible legislative reform.

At the same time, we are working on a review of the EU legal framework with a view to a decision, in 2014, whether to table possible legislative proposals. Our services, and in particular the Directorate General for Internal Market and Services that is responsible for this strand of action, would be happy to meet with you to discuss your position and your ideas as regards the legislative framework.

You also mention the current division of the Working Group on cross-border access and portability in sector-specific subgroups (audiovisual, print and music).

This division has been introduced following a request by group members, and we think it allows for more targeted and substantive discussions. Moreover, progress on some of the issues can probably be achieved more quickly in one sub-group rather than another. Nevertheless, if group members consider it useful, the sub-groups could be reunited in a working group plenary discussion before the end of the dialogue in order to have a more horizontal discussion of the issues at hand.

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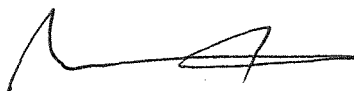
Finally, we fully understand the organisational difficulties that your organisations face because of the large number of meetings in the different (sub)groups. In order to facilitate the proper participation of users and other stakeholders in all the meetings, our services have done their best to avoid parallel meetings and to schedule them in a way that they can be followed consecutively (for example on the same day or on two consecutive days). Within the limits of the budgetary constraints of our Directorates General, the Commission also stands ready to provide financial assistance, via a reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs for representatives of your organisations (or affiliated national organisations).

We have asked our Directorates-General to follow-up with you on any remaining concerns that you may have.

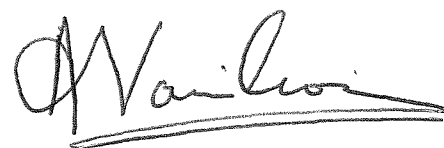
Yours sincerely,



Michel BARNIER



Neelie KROES



Androulla VASSILIOU

Copy: Mr Klaus-Peter BÖTTGER, President of EBLIDA