



6 May 2020

Mr Janez Janša, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia
gp.kpv@gov.si

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Additional supporting measures for the Slovenian publishing business and its employees due to Covid-19

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Publishers Association (IPA) to urge you to help the Slovenian book publishing industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. The IPA is the world's largest federation of national, regional and specialised book publishers' associations. Established in 1896, our membership comprises 83 organisations from 69 countries around the world, including our Slovenian member, the Slovenian Publishers Association or SPA (Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije).

In response to the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, publishers around the world have responded by licensing their content and digital services. Whether we are talking about books for a general audience, children's books, educational resources, or scientific research, publishers have reacted quickly to adapt where necessary and play a responsible role in society.

We have received reports indicating that the book sector in Slovenia has been deeply affected by the crisis. Figures show that the book trade lost 75-85% of its turnover in April 2020, compared with a year ago.

As you are no doubt aware, governments from around the world are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with a variety of measures, first, to minimize the imminent threats to their publishing industry and, secondly, to ensure that the industry can rebound and recuperate once we have conquered the virus.

We understand that your Government is preparing a third Anti-COVID-19 Package to be released soon. We strongly urge you to ensure that there are adequate measures dedicated to the book sector in this package.

Last month, the SPA wrote to the Ministers of Culture, the Economy, and Education proposing an emergency purchase of part of publishers' stocks. This should be done as quickly as possible to inject some desperately needed liquidity for many cash-starved enterprises.

We thank you for giving this letter your thoughtful consideration and remain available for any additional information that you may require.

Looking forward to your response,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Borghino', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

José Borghino
Secretary General

CC Mr Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia: gp.uprs@predsednik.si