

Croatia	Nina Obuljen Koržinek, Minister of Culture and President of the Culture Council
Austria	Mr. Werner Kogler, Minister of Culture
Belgium	Mrs Bénédicte Linard and Mr Jan Jambon, Ministers of Culture
Bulgaria	Mr Boil Banov, Minister of Culture
Cyprus	Mr Prodomou Prodomos, Minister of Culture
Czech Republic	Mr Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Culture
Denmark	Mrs Joy Mogensen, Minister of Culture
Estonia	Mr Tõnis Lukas, Minister of Culture
Finland	Mrs Hanna Kosonen, Minister of Culture
France	Mr Frank Riester, Minister of Culture
Germany	Mrs Monika Grütters, Minister of Culture
Greece	Mrs Lina Mendoni, Minister of Culture
Hungary	Mr Szilárd Demeter, Minister of Culture
Iceland	Mrs Lilja D. Alfreðsdóttir, Minister of Culture
Ireland	Mrs Josepha Madigan, Minister of Culture
Italy	Mr Dario Franceschini, Minister of Culture
Latvia	Mr Nauris Puntulis, Minister of Culture
Lithuania	Mrs Rasa Balčikonytė, Minister of Culture
Luxembourg	Mrs Samantha Tanson, Minister of Culture
Malta	Mr Owen Bonnici, Minister of Education and José Herrera, Minister of Culture
Netherlands	Mrs Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Culture
Norway	Mr Abid Raja, Minister of Culture
Poland	Mr Piotr Gliński, Minister of Culture
Portugal	Mrs Graça Fonseca, Minister of Culture
Romania	Mr Bogdan Gheorghiu, Minister of Culture
Slovakia	Mrs Natália Milanová, Minister of Culture
Slovenia	Mr Vasko Simoniti, Minister of Culture
Spain	Mrs Mónica Serrano, Minister of Culture
Sweden	Mrs Amanda Lind, Minister of Culture
UK	Mrs Caroline Dinéage, Minister of Culture
EC	Mrs Mariya Gabriel, Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Ministers of Culture of the European Union Member States,  
Dear Commissioner,

We hope you are all well.

As you meet tomorrow, we, representing European publishers, the first cultural industry in Europe, want you to know how terribly our sector has been hit by the crisis. New titles are cancelled (with dramatic consequences for the authors, the translators and the editors), and bookshops are mostly closed (whilst booksellers are finding smart solutions to deliver books and e-sales are growing, this is nowhere close to replacing the lost sales in shops). The sector has already suffered a cumulative loss of some 25% of the estimated 2020 turnover. We have prepared in Annex of this letter a first assessment based on the information we are gathering from our members.

Yet, despite their serious financial and logistical difficulties, European publishers are supporting society in general as well as their communities with many initiatives during the crisis. Examples are trade publishers promoting

29-35 Chaussée d'Ixelles – 1050 Brussels

Tel +32-2-770-11-10

[info@fep-fee.eu](mailto:info@fep-fee.eu) – [www.fep-fee.eu](http://www.fep-fee.eu)

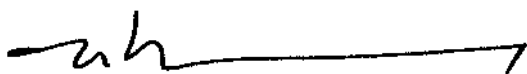
“reading-at-home” campaigns and supporting booksellers, or numerous educational publishers supporting schools with their digital content and didactic platforms, and there are many more.

In the coming days and months, in order to continue delivering benefit to society, the publishing sector needs concrete and urgent help. We call on all Member States to support their authors, publishers and booksellers with an array of measures. But there is also a role for the European Union. It is essential to move quickly: our sector needs both immediate measures, from the existing national EU budget, and medium-term measures to allow the industry to restart once the situation changes. In addition to the measures that are taken transversally for all companies, we ask that you commit to

- Fully finance the Creative Europe Programme as requested by the Parliament and within it a specific budget line dedicated to books;
- Upgrade the Financial Guarantee dedicated to the creative sectors so as to cover the urgent liquidity needs of enterprises in the publishing value-chain;
- Ensure that any EU money earmarked to help address the crisis includes funds dedicated to the cultural sectors, including the book sector;
- Support financially the entire book value chain to help it cope with the immediate effect of the crisis;
- Step up public investments in buying books for institutions, particularly libraries in order to restore the sustainability of the sector.

We often hear: *Books and culture are important for the future of Europe; they are a core asset of the European economy.* Today is the time to demonstrate that the book sector is really a priority for Europe. We are counting on you.

Stay safe, yours sincerely



Rudy Vanschoonbeek  
President

Copy: Mrs Sabine Verheyen, President of Culture Committee of the European Parliament

FEP members:

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[info@fep-fee.eu](mailto:info@fep-fee.eu) – [www.fep-fee.eu](http://www.fep-fee.eu)