



ICMP

INTERNATIONAL
CONFEDERATION
OF MUSIC
PUBLISHERS

28/11/2008

Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne
Minister of Economic Affairs
Rue Brederode 9
1000 Brussels

Dear Minister Van Quickenborne,

We have learned of your proposal to change Article 22 § 1, 4° bis of the Belgian Copyright Act (*Loi du 30 Juin 1994*) and are writing to express our concern.

ICMP is the voice of music publishing globally and the trade body for national, regional and international classical and popular music publishers' associations from Europe, North and South America and Asia-Pacific as well as the four multinational music publishing companies. ICMP's Belgian organisation is MusicPublishers.be whose members are leading music publishing companies operating at national and international level.

The proposed changes to the Belgian Copyright Act in as far as we understand, will allow for the reproduction of musical works for the purposes of illustration for teaching and scientific research without clear definition as to what is meant by "illustration for teaching and scientific research". We respectfully ask therefore for clarification in this regard.

As these proposed changes are presented to us, our concern is the negation of the rightsholders right to contest the mass reproduction and circulation of sheet music for non specified purposes by educational or scientific institutions. Such an amendment would have severe consequences for the revenue of composers, authors and publishers and therefore for the music industry as a whole.

We support the call at national level to discuss this with the creative industries representing those affected and encourage finding a workable solution for all, recognising in particular the needs of schools.

Yours sincerely

Ger Hatton
Secretary General

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