



Intervention at WIPO SCCR40 - Friday, 20th of November 2020 by Arjen Polman, on line

Agenda item Other Matters: *Proposal for a Study Focused on the Public Lending Right in the Agenda and Future Work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).*

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Since this is the first time that PLR International is taking the floor, we congratulate you on being elected SCCR Chairman. We also express our most sincere condolences on the tragic passing of WIPO Senior Counsellor Ms. Carole Croella.

PLR International consists of representatives from authors' organisations including text and visual artists, collective management organisations and publishers, and has a wealth of knowledge about the different PLR systems around the world. We fully support the proposal by Sierra Leone, Panama and Malawi for a 'Study Focused on the Public Lending Right'.

In the thirty five countries which have an active PLR system, we have seen how much it has helped to support cultural and linguistic diversity. PLR remuneration is giving both recognition to authors for the loans of their works from libraries, and payment which helps them keep creating.

In an ever more globalised world, countries need adequate tools to protect and develop their own cultures and minority languages. It is also an issue of fairness: authors in developing countries must be able to enjoy the same rights to remuneration as do authors in the developed part of the world.

There are many flavours of PLR. Each country has a different approach and can decide how to best develop its own system. Generally, PLR payments are made to authors for loans of their books but PLR funding is also used to provide other benefits to authors. PLR funds are used in some countries to provide authors with pensions, and in others to pay for scholarships.

The proposal for a study by Sierra Leone, Panama, and Malawi, is an important step forward, and one that PLR International wholeheartedly supports.

Thank you.

PLR International (PLRI) brings together countries with PLR systems to facilitate the exchange of best practice. It also provides advice and technical assistance to countries looking to set up PLR systems for the first time.

PLR International is organised by:

Arjen Polman, PLR International Co-ordinator

Arjen Polman can be reached at: arjen.polman@plrinternational.com