



## PRESS RELEASE

### FEP welcomes the directive on value-added tax rates

*The new directive allows super-reduced and 0 VAT also on books and ebooks*

*Brussels, 7 April 2022*

The **Federation of European Publishers** welcomes the adoption on **5 April** by the **Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN) Council** of the directive amending **Directive 2006/112/EC** regarding value-added tax rates. The new directive aims to give Member States greater flexibility in setting their reduced and super-reduced VAT rates and will enter into force in the coming days. Among the items concerned are **books** and **ebooks**, which will be eligible for **reduced**, and now also **super-reduced** or even **0 VAT in all Member States** thanks to the new proposal. The directive was published in the Official Journal on 6 April.

The prospect of super-reduced and 0 VAT represents important news for the book world at a time when rising paper and energy costs are putting the value chain in difficulty.

FEP has always pleaded for books to be taxed at the lowest rate possible due to their intrinsic educational, cultural and social value. In 2018, the campaign on reduced VAT on e-publications led by FEP with the representatives of newspaper and magazine publishers had made it possible to eliminate the unjustified distinction between print and digital publications when coming to VAT rates.

Nowadays, most Member States already apply a reduced VAT on books and ebooks, but, with the new directive, the book world can take another step towards a more accessible circulation of culture for everyone.

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