



FEP DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
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The Federation of European Publishers (FEP) represents the European national associations of publishers of books, learning materials, and/or journals in a range of media, in Brussels and acts on behalf of its members in discussions and negotiations with the institutions of the European Union concerning in particular legislation regarding copyright and taxation.

The FEP is bound by the Articles of Association agreed by its members, and it operates on the basis of the following principles:

- The free communication of opinions and ideas is a fundamental human right and FEP defends the freedom to publish both within and beyond the boundaries of the European Union
- The respect of copyright, the basis of any publishing activity, is all the more necessary in a digital environment. Only a strong copyright framework can sustain the publishing ecosystem and deliver diverse, high quality content for readers.
- Freedom to publish is linked to the freedom to create. The FEP respects and upholds the rights of authors and publishers within the contractual relationships freely entered into by both parties, so that creative works may be exploited in the best possible way and reach the widest possible audience. The need to strengthen the relationship between author and publisher is essential as technologies create new challenges to the established principles of copyright, which form the legislative and trading framework for publishing throughout the world.
- Cultural diversity is promoted if works are made available to the largest possible audience through the widest possible means of distribution. FEP acknowledges that a number of Member States consider that this goal is best achieved when national legislation entrusts publishers with the task of setting the retail price for books themselves.
- Furthermore, FEP welcomes moves by legislative and fiscal authorities to afford books a privileged status, such as reduced rates of Value Added Tax or exemptions for publishers and booksellers from certain forms of commercial regulation. Such policies reflect the unique educational and cultural role which reading plays in society and recognise the special nature of books and published texts in both printed and digital form.
- Access to reading is fundamental for European citizens. Therefore, FEP supports campaigns promoting literacy and reading as well as policies that enhance book accessibility for all readers. Technological innovation is key to offering equal opportunities for reading impaired people.
- Publishing by public institutions in Europe should be justified by the needs of the public for institutional publications and the principles and practice of such publishing should be governed by the rules of fair competition.
- To increase the benefits to our society of creativity and dynamic development within the publishing industry in the European Union, it is essential to recognise and support education and training in the skills of writing, translating, editing, design, production and marketing of books, journals and digital content. Similarly, education in the application of technologies in the book-related professions of bookselling, book distribution and librarianship has an indispensable role to play in the healthy growth of European publishing.