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**3 couples « Author-Publisher » make their voices heard in Brussels**

A balanced copyright legislation is essential to preserve a diverse and high quality European literature, said three internationally famous authors and their publishers at the second edition of the “Dialogues Author-Publisher” organised at the European Parliament today under the auspices of Marielle Gallo, MEP and writer.

Introduced by MEP Gallo and two other MEPs - Luigi Berlinguer and Cecilia Wikström -, Italian author Donato Carrisi and his publisher Stefano Mauri (Mauri Spagnol), Swedish crime-writer Åsa Larsson and Eva Bonnier, her publisher (Albert Bonniers Förlag) and Jean Dufaux, Belgian comic book writer with his publisher François Pernot (Dargaud-Lombard) talked about their common experiences, covering a range of issues to demonstrate the need for:

* **Copyright protecting creation**: while recently again calls have been made in favour of a full reform of the copyright, it is essential to preserve the right sustaining authors' creation.
* An **adapted tax system**: a fiscal regime which favours wide book dissemination must be put in place. Existing reduced VAT rates in most Member States should be applied to all books irrelevant of their formats (paper or ebooks).
* The recognition of the **specificity of the publishing activity** throughout Europe, even as books go digital: if the digital world offers new delivery platforms, it does not eliminate the need for someone to select, edit, host, manage and disseminate the digitised material. Books still need publishers! **And consequently publishers need a wide network of retailers to ensure that cultural diversity is preserved**.

Anne Bergman-Tahon, Director of FEP, said: “*These three authors and their publishers travelled to Brussels to give politicians and EU officials a unique insight in this exceptional relationship, the one between the creator and the publisher. Books are essential to European cultures, even more during this difficult period. Books are windows to the lives, thoughts and hopes of our fellow Europeans. They help us to better understand the world and our neighbourhood… Europe should be proud of its healthy publishing sector and support its shift to digital*.”

***FEP*** *(the Federation of European Publishers) is the voice of publishers in Europe. We are an independent, non-commercial umbrella association representing 27 national associations of book publishers associations in the European Union and of the European Economic Area. Find out more on* [*www.fep-fee.eu*](http://www.fep-fee.eu)

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