



Federico Motta
President

**FEP GENERAL ASSEMBLY
22nd May 2009**

Resolution unanimously adopted

The Federation of European Publishers (FEP) represents 26 national associations of book publishers of the European Union and of the European Economic Area and acts on behalf of its members in discussions and negotiations with the Institutions of the European Union particularly concerning legislation, regulation and taxation.

Meeting for their General Assembly the 22nd May 2009, FEP and its Member Associations (see list below) were made aware that the Lithuanian Government and Parliament are still considering the possibility to further increase the rate of VAT applicable to books to 19 % in July, notwithstanding the increase from 5 to 9 % as of 1st January 2009. We therefore unanimously call for a decision to be made that allows books to be applied the lowest VAT rate possible.

In the current economic downturn, as well as in the long run, the improvement of skills must be a priority; this is why books, fundamental vehicles of education and knowledge diffusion, should be recognised as such and benefit from conditions fostering their widest possible circulation and consumption.

As various studies indicate the detrimental effects of declines in readership not only in cultural, social and civic terms but also economically speaking, raising taxation on books would correspond to imposing a higher burden on a production factor decisive for creativity, innovation and long-term development.

Countries that have raised VAT rates on books abruptly are already experiencing signs of disruption of the publishing sector; this will certainly translate into a deterioration of readership levels, thus negatively affecting any goals in terms of training and education, as well as of competitiveness and employment.

Substituting a favourable fiscal regime with a direct public support for the book sector will not have a better impact on public finances and in addition will endanger the freedom and independence of publishing, undermining its role as a pillar of democratic debate.

Therefore, FEP Member Associations unanimously recommend that VAT on books in Lithuania be maintained at the lowest VAT rate available, in order to pay due consideration to the undeniable social, economic, cultural and political benefits associated with a wider readership and a healthy publishing sector.

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Fédération des Editeurs Européens
Federation of European Publishers

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AUSTRIA - HAUPTVERBAND DES ÖSTERREICHISCHEN BUCHHANDELS
BELGIUM - VLAAMSE UITGEVERS VERENIGING - ASSOCIATION DES EDITEURS BELGES
BULGARIA - АСОЦИАЦИЯ БЪЛГАРСКА КНИГА
CZECH REPUBLIC - SVAZ ČESKÝCH KNIHKUPCŮ A NAKLADATELŮ
CYPRUS - PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION OF CYPRUS
DENMARK - DEN DANSKE FORLAEGGERFORENING
ESTONIA - EESTI KIRJASTUSTE LIIT
FINLAND - SUOMEN KUSTANNUSYHDISTYS
FRANCE - SYNDICAT NATIONAL DE L'EDITION
GERMANY - BÖRSENVEREIN DES DEUTSCHEN BUCHHANDELS
GREECE - HELLENIC FEDERATION PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSELLERS
HUNGARY - A MAGYAR KÖNYVKIADOK ES KÖNYVTERJESZTOK EGYESÜLESE
ICELAND - FELAG ÍSLENSKRA BOKAUTGEFENDA
IRELAND - THE IRISH BOOK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION
ITALY - ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA EDITORI
LITHUANIA - LIETUVOS LEIDĖJŲ ASOCIACIJA
LUXEMBOURG - FEDERATION LUXEMBOURGEOISE DES EDITEURS DE LIVRES
THE NETHERLANDS - NEDERLANDS UITGEVERSVERBOND
NORWAY - DEN NORSKE FORLEGGERFORENING
POLAND - POLSKA IZBA KSIAŻKI
PORTUGAL - ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DE EDITORES E LIVREIROS
SLOVENIA - SLOVENIAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
SPAIN - FEDERACION DE GREMIOS DE EDITORES DE ESPAÑA
SWEDEN - SVENSKA FÖRLÄGGARE FÖRENINGEN
UNITED KINGDOM - THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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