

29 February 2008

## EBU and FEP common statement

The quick development and take-up of ICT is creating tremendous opportunities, but also challenges, for blind and partially sighted people in accessing information online. On the one hand, for those people who are dependent on accessible information, the creation and provision of well-formatted digital content is essential. On the other hand, publishing industries, right holders and service providers are wary of security issues and constrained by economic realities.

For this reason, the European Blind Union and the Federation of European Publishers have started working together to address accessibility issues. This work has served to inform the EUAIN project ([www.euain.org](http://www.euain.org)) and the drafting of recommendations (known as deliverable 3.2)<sup>1</sup> with regard to the interplay between national copyright exceptions and technological protection measures.

Both organisations strongly believe work still needs to be done to ensure the accessibility of digital content online and would welcome the European Commission's support to put forward and develop human, technical and financial solutions. This will be achieved by building trust between stakeholders notably through secured platforms and developing the appropriate technologies.

---

<sup>1</sup> The EUAIN project (European Accessible Information Network) is funded by the eInclusion thread of the European Commission 6th framework IST programme and co-ordinated by FNB Amsterdam. The report published in 2007 aimed to examine the current state of play in respect of access and protection in the digital age. In particular, deliverable 3.2 examines the interplay between national copyright exceptions (as permitted in Article 5.3b of the European Copyright Directive) and the requirements of Article 6.4.1 which are designed to prevent beneficiaries of exceptions from not being able to enjoy those exceptions as a result of TPM.