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Att: President Charkin and Secretary General Borghino

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Reform Proposal to the General Assembly in London, April 2016

We refer to our request to convene this General Assembly. As announced in our letter of January 22nd, we hereby present our proposals for changes in the statutes of IPA and the adoption of Guidelines on Membership, as well as Guidelines for the Freedom to Publish Committee and Guidelines for the Copyright Committee.

We believe that IPA needs to change to better fulfil its core missions, in particular its statutory Objects of promoting copyright and freedom to publish. We believe that reform is necessary in order for IPA to be consistent and loyal to its principles in these fields. We also request tangible improvements to internal communication and to transparency in the decision making process.

We have identified issues in the current situation that need to be improved, and this reform proposal is intended to offer a constructive approach to a solution:

Governance

- Some rules already present in the Statutes have not been implemented. In particular art. 3.2 foresees guidelines for membership criteria and procedures for new members.
- The roles of committees and working groups are not clear.
- The functioning of the Executive Committee is unclear, and this affects the transparency of its work.
- Voting procedures have to be revised.
- Communication and transparency in the decision making process should be improved.

Copyright

It is one of the two core missions of the IPA. We think that we need to strengthen our capacity to be influential in the international debate.

Freedom to Publish

It is the second core mission of the IPA and rules for reinforcing this function are required.

1. Governance.

We propose to change the Statutes in order to:

- Better identify the role of the Executive Committee, and the limit of its delegated power.
- Reinforce the role of the Copyright and Freedom to Publish Committees, establishing them as permanent statutory bodies.
- Increase the transparency in the determination of membership fees.

In order to be able to exercise better governance, we propose to adopt three sets of guidelines:

- Guidelines on Admission, Maintenance and Termination of Membership.
- Guidelines for the Freedom to Publish Committee.
- Guidelines for the Copyright Committee.

2. Copyright

We consider important that the Copyright Committee is mentioned in the Statutes, but we do not propose significant changes in the current role and functioning of the Committee.

However, we do suggest that the Executive Committee will present to the Assembly the strategy on this topic, including:

- Clear resource allocation.
- Strategy on the need to have access to competences, including how the current staff situation may solve a long term need to have appropriate professional resources in IPA.
- Improving dialogue with other stakeholders, in particular libraries and authors.
- Improving the involvement of publisher associations in the work on this matter.

3. Freedom to Publish

We propose to ensure higher independence of the Freedom to Publish Committee and review its functioning.

We believe that these changes must not remain superficial, but must be well conceived and profound in order to achieve reform that will better equip IPA to pursue its objectives in future.

4. The coming General Assembly

For the coming General Assembly, we propose the following on the agenda:

- Presentation of and discussion on our reform package with other members. We invite all members to contribute to a proposal. We do not regard our package as carved in stone.
- Adoption of the proposed changes to the Statutes.
- Adoption of the proposed guidelines.
- Presentation by the Executive Committee and the Secretary General of IPA strategy, including how to allocate resources to achieve the goals of IPA and how to implement the new Statutes and guidelines (if adopted).
- Presentation by the Chair of the Membership Committee on how to run a process assessing members' (old and new) compliance with new Guidelines and Statutes (if adopted).
- Presentation by the Executive Committee and Secretary General of plans to improve internal communication and achieve transparency in the decision making process.

If the Executive committee and Secretary General would like us to provide further information on possible areas of improvement, we will be happy to do so.

Kind regards,

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Annexes

- A) Amendments to the Statutes.
- B) Guidelines on Admission, Maintenance and Termination of Membership
- C) Guidelines for the Freedom to Publish Committee
- D) Guidelines for the Copyright Committee