

PRESS RELEASE

TTIP negotiations: the European Council of Literary Translators' welcomes the European Parliament's recommendations

Brussels, 08 September, 2015

In a [press release dated 2 February 2015](#), CEATL sounded the alarm on the fact that the publishing industry was part of the TTIP negotiating mandate, which might pose a threat to policies of protection and promotion of the book sector, notably to fixed book prices.

CEATL therefore welcomes the [recommendations to the European Commission](#) adopted on 8 July 2015 by the European Parliament regarding the TTIP, recommending among other things to:

“- to ensure via a legally binding general clause applicable to the entire agreement, in full compliance with the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, that the parties, reserve their right to adopt or maintain any measure (in particularly those of a regulatory and/or financial nature) with respect to the protection or promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity (...) keeping in mind that the mandate given to the European Commission by the Member States explicitly excludes the audiovisual services;

- to specify that **nothing in the agreement shall affect the ability of the EU or EU Member States to subsidise and provide financial support to cultural industries and cultural, educational, audiovisual and press services;**

- to confirm that **fixed book price systems and price fixing for newspapers and magazines will not be challenged by the obligations under the TTIP agreement;**”

While still regretting that the publishing sector is not exempt from the scope of the negotiations as the audio-visual sector is, CEATL also takes note of the [recent declarations by the negotiator Cecilia Malmström](#) regarding the necessary protection of the policies in support of the cultural sector (“Our commercial treaty with the United States will not affect the capacity of the Member States to create or maintain a fixed book price system”) and it will keep a close watch on the implementation of the Parliament's recommendations.

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