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Federation of European Publishers welcomes the French decision on Google

FEP welcomes the decision of the Court of First Instance in the affair La Martinière/Le Seuil vs Google. The French member of FEP, the Syndicat national de l'Édition had joined the procedure.

FEP is particularly satisfied that the French judges have decided that the applicable law is France for books being digitised in order to be made accessible as snippets to French internet users on their territory. It is also very important for FEP that the digitisation by Google has been recognised as an act of reproduction and that the exception for quotations does not apply as the snippets displayed have no informative goal. Furthermore, the judges consider that the snippets are infringing the moral rights of the authors of the books.

FEP President Federico Motta congratulated his French colleague Serge Eyrolles, President of SNE by saying *'This decision is extremely important for all European publishers. It shows that in Europe even large internet companies have to follow the law. I hope that Google understands that it is now time to start serious discussions with European publishers starting first to remove our books from their database'*.

European publishers are increasingly offering their backlists in digital format. They have been working to provide more and more digital content alongside the printed books. Moreover, European publishers collaborate with Europeana, the European digital cultural institutions' portal.

Federation of European Publishers

Phone 32-2-770-11-10 (direct line 02-776-84-60)

Fax 32-2-771-20-71

Website www.fep-fee.eu
