

KOPINOR

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DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' LICENSE

On 31 December 2005, agreements on photocopying of protected works in primary and secondary schools, as well as in local government administration, will expire. Kopinor is negotiating a model agreement with The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) for the coming four years, but negotiations are at a standstill.

Kopinor broke off the negotiations on a new copying agreement for the municipal sector on 28 November. This was caused by a demand from KS to slash remuneration by 30 per cent per year, estimated by Kopinor to amount to almost US\$ 4 million. New statistical surveys show a yearly volume of 260 million copyright protected copy-pages in this sector.

A main argument from KS was that remuneration should go down because it was expected that a liberalized textbook market would result in cheaper books in the years ahead. Supported by market analysis, Kopinor rejected this argument outright

and requested the intervention of the State Mediator. There are also disputes on payment for print-outs from the Internet and for video projection (PowerPoint) usage. Mediation began on 12 December.

If Kopinor and KS do not reach a solution, the impasse could result in a ban on copying in Norwegian schools and municipalities. In such a case, reprographic reproduction etc. from books, newspapers or magazines will be illegal without direct permission from the individual rights holder concerned. Such a ban was carried out by Kopinor during a three-month period in 1984.

NEW EXTENDED COLLECTIVE LICENSES INTRODUCED

The amended Norwegian Copyright Act came into force 1 July 2005.

One of the purposes of the revision is to implement the EU Information Society Directive. Of importance for Kopinor's activities is the fact that new extended collective licences were introduced. The new legislation will facilitate Kopinor's licensing of digital copying within education (Sec. 13b), for internal use within businesses and institutions (Sec. 14), as well as certain uses in libraries, archives and museums (Sec. 16a). On this basis, Kopinor has begun negotiations on licenses for digital uses within the educational sector.

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Tarja Koskinen-Olsson and Serman Chavula

KOPINOR'S ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

At Kopinor's anniversary celebrations on May 25th 2005, Serman Chavula, Malawi, and Tarja Koskinen-Olsson, Finland, received the Kopinor 25th Anniversary Award.

The anniversary awards (of NOK 75.000) were presented by the Kopinor Chair, Prof. Helge Rønning, and the Executive Director, Mr. John-Willy Rudolph in recognition of their "important and enduring international achievements in the field of collective rights management, and as an incentive for continued efforts on behalf of rights holders the world over". They were presented at Kopinor's Anniversary Dinner.

Serman Chavula is the Copyright Administrator and Executive Director of the Copyright Society of Malawi (COSOMA) from its inception in 1992. Tarja Koskinen-Olsson has served as the CEO of Kopiosto and as Chairman of IFRRO (International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations). In 2001 she was elected IFRRO Honorary President.

KOPINOR'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Kopinor's 25th anniversary was marked by three days of conferences: first a Reprography Workshop for foreign guests, then the annual Nordic RRO meeting, culminating on Friday, 20 May with Kopinor 25th Anniversary International Symposium.

Participants from more than 25 countries attended the symposium, which was opened by the Minister of Culture, Ms. Valgerd Svarstad Haugland.

The symposium focused on three main themes:

- Collective management of rights
- Cultural, social and economical aspects of authors' rights
- Freedom of expression and information, authors' rights and digital technology

Key speakers included:

- Dr. Lawrence Lessig, USA,
- Ms. Tarja Koskinen-Olsson, Finland
- Dr. Henry Olsson, Sweden
- Dr. Daniel Gervais, Canada
- Mr. Helge K. Sønneland, Norway
- Ms. Ljiljana Rudic-Dimic, Serbia and Montenegro
- Mr. Serman W. D. Chavula, Malawi

Photos and speeches can be accessed on Kopinor's Anniversary web pages: www.kopinor.org.



Photo: Ola Sæther



Photo: Ola Sæther

Professor at Stanford Law School, Dr. Lawrence Lessig (top), and Dr. Henry Olsson, who for many years has been responsible for copyright within the Swedish Ministry of Justice, were two of the speakers at the Kopinor symposium.

NEW EXTENDED COLLECTIVE LICENSES ... (CONTINUED)

A scheme for compensation to rights holders for private copying was also introduced. There will be no levies on equipment or devices. As the first country to follow this path, Norway has decided to pay the compensation over the State budget.

Before Parliament passed the amendments in June, there was intense public debate on private uses and copy control measures. The amendments were dubbed "The MP3-law" in the media. The tertiary educational sector as well as the libraries argued strongly for an expansion of free uses of copyright protected works.

Kopinor and other collective management organisations, engaged in a campaign to counteract some of these initiatives, using full-page ads in the papers. In the final debate in Parliament, parliamentarians from all major parties underlined the rights holder's right to receive remuneration for the use of their works, including remuneration from print-outs from the Internet.

A complete translation of the revised Norwegian Copyright Act can be found on Kopinor's web site.



INTERNATIONAL

FIRST REPROGRAPHY SEMINAR IN ZAMBIA

ZAMCOPS (Zambia Music Copyright Protection Society) and Kopinor jointly conducted a first-ever reprography seminar in Lusaka on 7-8 November 2005. Ms. Gao Hang, Deputy Dean & Head, WIPO Worldwide Academy, Geneva, Ms Franziska Schulze, Deputy Secretary General, IFRRO, Brussels, Mr. Stanley M'kandawire, Managing Director, ZAMCOPS and Zambian government officials were among the speakers. The Zambian rights holders resolved to set up an RRO under the ZAMCOPS umbrella, and an interim committee was given the task of preparing such a move.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

In November Mr. Rabie Kasahneh communicated to us that SIPA, the Syrian Intellectual Property Association, which he has set up, had been given government approval to operate as a collective management body. The dynamic Mr. Khashaneh was instrumental in planning and implementing a copyright seminar in Damascus some time back in co-operation with Norwegian rights holder associations and Kopinor. Earlier this year WIPO and IFRRO conducted a second seminar.

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