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To the European Commission

Berlin, 28 November 2008

CEPIC – Response to the Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy –

CEPIC, Coordination of European Picture Agencies Press Stock Heritage, was founded in 1993 to have a unified representation in light of new legislation emerging from Brussels. Registered as an EEIG (Economic European Interest Group) in Paris in 1999 and achieving observer status at WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) in 1997, as the first organisation within the picture industry to do so, CEPIC now represents over a thousand of picture agencies and photo libraries in 19 countries across Europe, both within and outside the European Union. Also a member of IPTC since 2005, CEPIC's membership includes large and smaller stock photo libraries, major photo news agencies, art galleries and museums. CEPIC has among its members all the big global companies like Getty and Corbis.

Every year in a different European country, CEPIC holds an International Congress which gathers the entire spectrum of the image industry. In 2008 Congress was held in Malta and attracted over 700 delegates and 400 companies from more than 50 countries and from five continents. Congress hosts both the metadata conference, organised by IPTC and IFRA, and the MILE conference, a EU-funded E-Content project.

CEPIC is a member of IPTC, an organisation that has been working with digital standard of images since early 1990 and is part of their photo metadata group. The third international metadata conference will take place in Dresden, Germany, in June 2009 within the framework of the annual CEPIC Congress.

CEPIC is very familiar with the issues dealt with in the questionnaire and we wish to offer here the perspective of copyright owners managing huge digital databases, well aware of the opportunities but also the risks of digital technology. Our membership has digitized many millions of image material in the last 15 years and is using internet in a B2B as well as a B2C or web-generated-based business models.

We think it is of importance for the EU to get more information about how this global picture market works and CEPIC are willing to assist in that. We think it is also necessary that a successful image market is best represented by CEPIC, not collecting societies, when the EU wants information about distribution and selling of copyright protected material.

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The Membership of CEPIC is made up of the following National Associations :
**AEAPAF, Spain - APAAI, Portugal – BAPLA, United Kingdom – BLF, Sweden - BVPA e.V. , Germany –
FNAPPI, France – NLimage, Netherlands – SAB, Switzerland – SBF, Sweden – SNAPIG, France -**
In addition CEPIC has affiliates member agencies in 19 European countries.
<http://www.ceplic.org>