

# The Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance

Convened by CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals



c/o CILIP 7 Ridgmount Street London WC1E 7AE

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Dear Ros

I am writing to you on behalf of LACA, the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance to ask you for an update on the current status of ratification of the WIPO *Marrakesh VIP Treaty* in the European Union and to confirm the UK's position.

The Treaty was signed by the European Union in 2014 and to date only 15 of the EU Member States are also Contracting Parties, of which the UK was the first in 2013. The Treaty requires the ratification of twenty Contracting Party states to come into force and to date eleven have been achieved, none of which are the EU or its Member States. It seems possible that the Treaty might come into force in 2016 or 2017, since a number of Contracting Parties are well on the way towards ratification, but it seems these may not include the EU or any of its Member States.

LACA is aware that there is disagreement about ratification between the Commission and certain EU Member States, including the UK, but that the nature of the disagreement is not over the substance of the Treaty, but over the EU's legal framework for ratification.

The Marrakesh Treaty would fill a significant gap in UK and European library, archive and information provision for people with visual impairments by creating a mandatory copyright exception that allows the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies.

I would be grateful if you could look into this so that LACA can update its members on this crucial human rights equality and access issue.

Yours sincerely

Naomi Korn  
LACA Chair

*Chair* Naomi Korn

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