

October 8, 2021

Subject: Wikimedia Foundation's application for observer status at WIPO

Dear Delegates,

For the second time, the application of the Wikimedia Foundation for observer status at the World Intellectual Property Organization was not approved.

We, civil society organizations, are writing with regard to the deeply concerning outcome of the sixty-second series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization, not to admit the Wikimedia Foundation as an observer to that organization.

This decision was received with dismay particularly by those of us who, as accredited observers at WIPO, have for decades enriched discussions and made important contributions to the debates that take place at this U.N. specialized agency.

The Wikimedia Foundation is an active and respected stakeholder in the areas of access to knowledge and information, as well as copyright policy, and its projects have a global outreach. The Foundation and its network have contributed to national and regional legislative processes that are aimed at shaping the legal framework for user rights.

Given the key role of WIPO in shaping normative and practical work around copyright that impacts how researchers, educators and the public at large access and use knowledge, not admitting the Foundation as an observer would be unacceptable and it would run counter with the established practice on criteria for admission of observers at WIPO.

We call on Delegations to do everything in their power to facilitate admission of the Wikimedia Foundation at the next series of meetings of the WIPO Assemblies, without any further delays.

Yours faithfully,

Aksioma | Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana

Aprender 3C

Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados de la República Argentina (ABGRA)

Asociación Colombiana de Bibliotecología, Bibliotecarios y Bibliotecas (Ascolbi), Colombia

Asociación TEDIC, Paraguay

AvoinGLAM, Finland

Biblioteca Nacional de Maestras y Maestros del Ministerio de Educación de Argentina (BNM)
Central technical Library at the University of Ljubljana
Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation, Poland
Civil Liberties Union for Europe
COMMUNIA International Association on the Digital Public Domain
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D3 - Defesa dos Direitos Digitais, Portugal
Derechos Digitales, Latin America
Digital Republic Association, Bulgaria
Digitale Gesellschaft, Germany
Drzavljan D
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)
Elektronisk Forpost Norge (EFN)
Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)
Epicenter.works, Austria
European Association of Research Libraries (LIBER)
European Digital Rights (EDRi)
Fight for the Future
Fundación Karisma, Colombia
Fundación Vía Libre
Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights
Homo Digitalis, Greece
International Council on Archives (ICA)
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
Internet Archive, United States
Intellectual Property Institute (IPI), Slovenia
IP Justice
IT-pol Denmark
Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
Library and Archive Copyright Alliance (LACA), UK

Library Copyright Alliance

Open Access India

Open Future Foundation, The Netherlands

Open Knowledge Finland

Platoniq Foundation

Red de Latinoamérica y del Caribe de Derecho de Autor, del Acceso a la Información, la Cultura y otros temas relativos (REDLACDA)

R3D: Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales, México

Scholarly Horizons, South Africa

Vrijschrift.org

Xnet., Spain