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Answer given by Ms Gabriel
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.4.2021)

The Commission is aware of the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the book sector. The crisis obliges the sector to accelerate its digital transformation. The new Creative Europe programme (2021-2027)¹ includes actions targeted at supporting the book sector, such as financial support for the circulation and promotion of translated European books or transnational cooperation projects to foster innovative practices and professionalisation in various fields, such as digitisation and international sales. EU programmes, such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe, will complement the national recovery plans co-financed by NextGenerationEU², for which the creative sectors, including the book sector, are eligible.

The Commission has recently published its Media and Audiovisual Action Plan³, which intends to complement the Intellectual Property Action Plan⁴, ensuring more effective enforcement of intellectual property rights in the digital environment. In particular, the Commission intends to engage in discussions with the industry to see how existing remedies to fight piracy, such as injunctions, can be made more efficient, notably to cope with the dynamic and borderless nature of online commercial-scale infringements. In this context, building on the Intellectual Property Action Plan, particular attention will be paid to fostering cooperation among national enforcement authorities and cross-border enforcement.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2405

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en#nextgenerationeu

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2239

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12510-Intellectual-Property-Action-Plan>