

Amsterdam/Berlin, April 9, 2013

NEMO, the Network of European Museum Organisations, feels the need to once again enforce its serious concerns regarding the proposal for the Directive 2003/98/EC, which will impact on museums, archives and libraries as an unwanted infraction on their already problematic financial situation.

As representative of the museum community of Europe, with members representing the national museums associations and other similar bodies in more than 32 countries in the EU and beyond, who embody over 30.000 museums in Europe, NEMO strongly recommends to exclude archives, libraries and museums from this directive.

Museums see it as their mission to ensure that a broad public can enjoy their collection, physically and digitally. Museums in Europe are deeply affected by financial cuts of their respective governments. Incurring costs to satisfy the obligations set forth in this proposal might bring many museums to the edge of their possibilities. Thus NEMO recommends letting the museums participate at the income of third parties that was incurred through commercial use of their collections.

NEMO is happy to engage in discussions on how to ensure further use of the information collected by archives, libraries and museums benefitting all concerned parties, but feels that the directive in its present state should be altered in the following points:

1. Museums should be able to decide for themselves how to exploit and make available their collections and documents to the public, whether they do it with their own means, in co-operation with a third party or entirely through a third party.

Many museums do generate a substantial part of their income through the use of their collections. It should be made sure, that they will be able to do so in the future.

In addition, museums should not be forced to explain and account for the costs they charge for making their documents available. This is an unnecessary burden that involves additional resources such as staff and documentation costs.

2. Museum should keep their right of exploitation for the documents and objects they hold, instead of being forced to impart it to third parties.
3. Museums, as institutions in service of society, are happy to make available their documents for educational and scientific purposes in an unconditioned way; however they must be able to restrict commercial use of their documents.

Following the above presented reasoning, NEMO once again enforces its position to exclude archives, libraries and museums from this directive.

NEMO is happy to clarify any questions you may have in this regard. Please contact our office at office@ne-mo.org.

Yours sincerely,



Siebe Weide
Chair, on behalf of the NEMO executive board