Press Release

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Collecting societies and associations reach agreement on PC levies

After three years of negotiations, the collecting societies united in ZPÜ as well as the societies VG Wort and VG Bild-Kunst have finally reached new general agreements with the PC manufacturers and importers grouped together in the associations BCH (Federal Association of Computer Manufacturers) and BITKOM (German Federation of the Information Industry, Telecommunications and the New Media) covering the level of levies for copies made by PC for private and other personal use.

A particular challenge for the contract parties was to implement the parameters stipulated by the European Court of Justice in its Padawan ruling for the treatment of PCs acquired by business enterprises, the so-called business PCs.

In the period from 1.1.2011 to 31.12.2016, the following rates will apply to general agreement members:

- Consumer PCs: EUR 10.55
- Business PCs: EUR 3.20
- PCs with a screen size of up to 12.4 inch: EUR 8.50
- Workstations (as of 1.1.2014): EUR 3.20

in each case plus value added tax at the statutory rate.

The collecting societies will publish tariffs for those importers and manufacturers of PCs, who do not enter into general agreements. As these companies cannot be granted the general-agreement discount of 20%, the tariffs will be correspondingly higher than the above rates set forth in the general agreement.

The representatives of the collecting societies, Dr. Harald Heker (ZPÜ), Dr. Robert Staats (VG Wort) and Dr. Urban Pappi (VG Bild-Kunst) commented: “The agreement is founded on the willingness of the contract parties to adopt an open approach to the viewpoint of the other respective party. This shows that there is goodwill on all sides the remuneration system for private copying does work in Germany.
However, we appeal to the lawmakers to create the legal basis for guaranteeing that money flows to the authors and the owners of related rights, even during prolonged negotiations, by the introduction of a deposit requirement.”

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