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VG WORT

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The purpose of this brochure is to introduce the Collective Management Organization VG WORT. With about 80 colleagues in Munich and Berlin, we administer copyright exploitation rights and claims to remuneration of authors and publishers, on a fiduciary basis.

In the following pages we tell you about the main tasks and goals of our work in collective administration of rights and about the organs and social institutions of VG WORT.

Have fun browsing through the brochure!
Best wishes



Dr. Robert Staats
CEOs



Rainer Just

VG WORT

WHAT IS
VG WORT?

VG WORT is an association, in which authors and publishers have combined for the collective administration of rights of copyright. The association does not seek a profit.

The organs of VG WORT are the Members' Meeting, the Council of Administration, the Board of Directors as well as the Meeting of Represented Rightholders. The Members and Represented Rightholders of VG WORT are divided into six professional groups.

The professional groups are the authors and translators of fictional literature and dramatic works; journalists, authors and translators of non-fiction literature; authors and translators of scientific and technical literature; publishers of fiction and non-fiction; theatrical publishers and publishers of scientific and technical literature.

VG WORT is one of a total of twelve Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) in Germany. All are subject to supervision by the German Patent and Trademark Office.

VG WORT was founded in February 1958 by authors and publishers. Its main office is in the Munich district of "Untergiesing"; its Berlin office is near the "Potsdamer Platz".

WHAT DOES
VG WORT
DO?

VG WORT operates in areas where individual authors and publishers cannot effectively administer the rights in their works.

The main task of VG WORT is to collect equitable remuneration, arising under claims to remuneration for the use of copyright protected works, from potential debtors. Potential debtors include, for example, the manufacturers, importers, and operators of copying devices, educational institutions, libraries and the users of press digests. VG WORT distributes this income subject to minimal administration fees, to the authors and publishers it represents. The remuneration is distributed in accordance with the Distribution Plan of VG WORT.

A major sphere of activity for VG WORT is to utilize the new possibilities for copyright administration opened up by rapid technical and business developments. In this connection, VG WORT, on behalf of authors and publishers, is heavily involved in legal and political discussions, and in proposing concrete legislation.

VG WORT also fulfills important social and cultural tasks, for example to assist authors and publishers in financial difficulty through supplementary pension insurance or by financing the printing costs of published scientific works.

VG WORT supports three important German social organizations, the Social Funds, the Promotion and Social Funds Science and the Authors' Pension Assistance Organization, which assist the authors and publishers it represents.

VG WORT
IN THE DIGITAL
WORLD

CMOs like VG WORT have especially important tasks in the digital world.

The internet enables users to access copyright protected works quickly and easily. Easy access should however not mean free access. In the digital environment too, equitable remuneration must be secured for authors, publishers and other rightholders. It is therefore necessary - now and in the future - to strike a fair balance between the protection of the interests of the rightholders and the interests of users, through appropriate models.

Together with numerous political, cultural and economic partners in Germany and Europe, VG WORT is continually striving to ensure that respect for creative endeavor is maintained, including on the internet, and that authors can participate in the growing digital marketplace.

Under the slogan “Wir geben 8 aufs Wort” (“We respect the word”) VG WORT has created an internet platform aimed at strengthening the rights of authors and publishers. On www.wir-geben-8.net well-known personalities give their views on copyright law.

**VG WORT
INTERNATIONAL**

VG WORT is a member of the international federation of CMOs in the text and image sector, IFRRO. 138 CMOs worldwide belong to this umbrella organization, which is based in Brussels. VG WORT is an active member of key groups within IFRRO and makes its voice heard in international discussions concerning copyright law.

VG WORT is also a member of the Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA), Brussels. SAA represents CMOs in the audiovisual sphere at the European level.

VG WORT has concluded so-called reciprocal agreements with numerous foreign CMOs. These cover the administration of the rights of German authors and publishers abroad as well as those of foreign authors and publishers in Germany.

Information about current developments and events abroad appears on VG WORT's homepage under the link "international". The present brochure has been published in English as well as German, for the benefit of foreign authors and publishers within Germany.

**FACTS AND
FIGURES ABOUT
VG WORT**

VG WORT administers the copyright rights of over **400,000** German authors and **10,000** German publishers, on a fiduciary basis.

Currently VG WORT collects about **€ 120 million** a year. Each year about **150,000** authors and **6,000** publishers receive a distribution.

Figures for VG WORT's database, which is continually being expanded, are also noteworthy. For example, in the TV area, about **364,000** work titles and data on more than **605,000** rightholders are currently stored in VG WORT's databases.

Opportunities to report online are constantly increasing. About **180,000** authors have already elected to register electronically. The registration portal "Report texts online" (T.O.M.) is fully functional. The number of reports increases year on year.

VG WORT

*„Das Urheberrecht
ist eine Frage des
Respekts.“*

Pim Richter | Autor, Regisseur und Produzent

Wir geben 8 aufs Wort.

Mit einer Kampagne will die VG WORT die Urheberrechtsdebatte nachhaltig im Sinne ihrer 8 Positionen mitgestalten – und freut sich über eine wachsende Zahl prominenter Unterstützer.

Was andere Autoren und Verleger dazu sagen, erfahren Sie unter:
www.wir-geben-8.net

More details about all the activities of VG WORT and the interesting opportunities for participation by authors and publishers can be found on our homepage under www.vgwort.de

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