

Europe Needs a General Assembly for Books

Enable collective thinking at European level on the issues and challenges facing the book, publishing and public reading sector today

Étienne GALLIAND – International Alliance of Independent Publishers – April 2009

Issues at stake

The cultural industry in general and the book industry in particular are being affected by important changes. Likewise, public reading - having largely avoided the market sector - needs to face up to a redefinition of its objectives and purpose. The impact of digitization is being felt increasingly without there even being a defined socio-cultural and economic model to attach to. Europe is the overall world champion in the concentration of publishing (from Hachette and Bertelsmann to Planeta), reading practices are diversifying and new operators are investing in the sector (search engines through to mobile phone operators). In order to face these great changes, professionals in the sector need to exchange their analyses of the field and its evolution.

Proposals

The organization of a European general assembly on books would allow authors, editors, distributors, libraries and public reading professionals (in particular librarians) to exchange their experiences and work together to identify the challenges they are confronting today.

Beyond this, they could **build a body of propositions together** that will find support among national and European decision-makers. This event would be in line with the Convention for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression, signed and ratified under the aegis of UNESCO by all countries in the European Community.



38, rue Saint-Sabin
75011 Paris – France
www.alliance-editeurs.org