



European Writers' Council
Fédération des associations européennes
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Mr. Illugi Gunnarsson, Minister
The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
Sölvholsgötu 4
150 Reykjavik
Iceland

Brussels, 24 November 2014

Ref.: Raising VAT for Books in Iceland

Dear Mr. Gunnarsson,

The Annual General Assembly of the **European Writers' Council** held in Brussels on 2 November 2014, expresses its deep concern about the plans of raising the VAT on books in Iceland from 7% to 12%.

The EWC sees this as devastating to the small Icelandic book market. It will have painful and irreversible effects on authors, publishers, booksellers, and on the reading culture of a nation known throughout the world for its rich and diverse literary heritage.

The European Writers' Council / Fédération des associations européennes d'écrivains – AISBL is the non-profit international federation of 50 national and trans-national associations and unions of professional writers and literary translators in 34 European countries, thus beyond the EU28, including Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Belarus, Montenegro, and Turkey. The federation's members represent over 160.000 authors in the book and text sector, in all genres.

We encourage the Icelandic government to follow the example of your neighbouring countries like Norway, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Farö Islands which charge no VAT at all on books.

Sincerely,

Pirjo Hiidenmaa

Pirjo Hiidenmaa, PhD
EWC President

Myriam Diocaretz

Myriam Diocaretz, PhD
Secretary-General