



## **Country report BULGARIA**

Annual report to the IFLA CLM committee  
Singapore 2013

### **I. COPYRIGHTS**

#### **1. New legislation**

- No developments.
- Last amendments/revisions to the Bulgarian Copyrights and Related Rights act were done in 2011.

#### **2. Proposed legislation**

*No developments to report.*

#### **3. Pending legislative issues**

*No developments to report.*

### **II. LEGAL MATTERS**

#### **1. New (proposed) legislation**

In the past few years there are constant plans for introduce of new Penal Code. Serious discussions regarding IP related provisions (IP related crimes) in a draft Penal Code took place last (2012) year. Some of the proposals were in direction for increase of the provided sanctions regarding IP crimes.

#### **2. Legislative Issues**

New Interpretative Decision regarding the criminal offences of trademarks issued on May 31, 2013 by the Supreme Cassation Court of Bulgaria. (The interpretative decisions are obligatory for all the authorities). The Interpretative Decisions clarify many of the important issues with regard to existing controversial court practice on trademarks infringement cases/criminal responsibility. It must be noted that initiation of criminal proceedings is most frequent/common way for legal protection of TM Owners in Bulgaria in the last years.

### **III. LAW CASES**

*No developments to report.*

### **IV. ADVOCACY/LOBBYING ACTIVITIES**

A workshop entirely devoted on IFLA principles on e-books and e-lending is to take place on DIPP Conference in Bulgaria - September 2013 (<http://dipp2013.math.bas.bg/>).

### **V. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

*No developments to report.*

## VI. STRATEGIC PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

*No developments to report.*

## VII. OTHER ISSUES

- 1) **US Blacklist** - Bulgaria was included in the Special 301 Report (Watch List) prepared annually by the Office of the US Trade Representatives. Bulgaria was not presented in this list (known here also as the Blacklist) since 2007. The stated reason for this step - internet piracy in Bulgaria (including big torrent trackers).
- 2) Issues related to **chitanka.info** - Recently was started a campaign for the stoppage of one famous Bulgarian website ([chitanka.info](http://chitanka.info)) known also as My Library. On this site are uploaded many books (of Bulgarian and foreign authors including copyrighted ones). This is the biggest Bulgarian website for free access to literature and the copyrights issues related to [chitanka.info](http://chitanka.info) have a very long background. However, recently was filed a signal by the Association "Bulgarian Book" before Bulgarian Police authorities regarding this website where is claimed infringements of copyrights.

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