PROTECTION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY FROM A EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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Edited by

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PREFACE

The protection of cultural diversity has become an important issue on the agenda of many international organisations and fora. The G8, the Council of Europe and UNESCO, for example, have all expressed the need for the protection of cultural diversity. In October 2005, 148 countries signed the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as 'UNESCO Convention'). The UNESCO Convention entered into force on 18 March 2007. With the adoption of this Convention, the international community has created a framework for protective measures dedicated to the diversity of cultural expressions against the influences of globalisation and free trade. This progressive affirmation of the need for the protection of cultural diversity responds to growing concerns of governments and civil society regarding the preservation of cultural expressions. There is a mounting consensus in the international community that the preservation of cultural diversity is as important to humankind as the protection of biodiversity. The European Ministers of Culture declared in Thessaloniki in May 2003:

Europe as a continent of culture can neither accept the threat of cultural homogeneity, nor the threat of the clash of civilisations. The European answer to all this is to insist on safeguarding and promoting cultural diversity. This basic political pursuit needs the appropriate legal basis. On the international level, the latter may be expressed under the aegis of UNESCO in the form of a multilateral convention on the protection and promotion of cultural diversity, taking into account the preparation already done in the framework of the Council of Europe and the International Network of Cultural Policy. The basic international forum for cultural policies cannot be the WTO.

The Faculty of Law of Maastricht University, in cooperation with the Boekman Foundation, Amsterdam, organized on 18 and 19 March 2007 an international conference on *The Protection of Cultural Diversity from an International and European Perspective*. The aim of the conference was to discuss, on the very date of the entry into force of the UNESCO Convention, the policy space for national policies for the protection of cultural diversity. This book contains contributions reflecting the discussions and conclusions reached at this conference. The first part of the conference addressed the protection of cultural

diversity in the context of international law. The first session of this part focused on the relationship between the protection of cultural diversity and international trade law. The contribution on this topic by Peter Van den Bossche on Free Trade and the Protection of Cultural Diversity: A WTO Perspective on National Policy Options has earlier been published by Peter Van den Bossche as Free Trade and Culture: A Study of Relevant WTO Rules and Constraints on National Cultural Policy Measures (Boekman Foundation, 2007) (with foreword by Cas Smithuijsen) and is therefore not included in this book. The second session of the first part of the conference focused on the UNESCO Convention and discussed the Convention from different perspectives. This book includes contributions on The History of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, by Yvonne Donders, University of Amsterdam, on the Substantive Rights and Obligations under the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity, by Christoph Beat Graber, University of Lucerne, on Cultural Diversity and the WTO: David versus Goliath?, by Jan Wouters and Bart De Meester, University of Leuven, and on Trade Meets Cultural Diversity: The Legal Relationship between WTO Rules and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Anke Dahrendorf, Maastricht University. The third and last session of the first part of the conference dealt with the protection of cultural diversity through the use of intellectual property rights. This book concludes contributions on this topic by Hannu Wager, WTO Secretariat, on Copyright and the Promotion of Cultural Diversity and by Fiona Macmillan, University of London, on The UNESCO Convention as a New Incentive to Protect Cultural Diversity?

The second part of the conference was devoted to the protection of cultural diversity and policy making in the European Union. The first session of this second part dealt with European Union law and policy on cultural diversity in general. This book includes contributions on *The Value of Cultural Diversity in European Union Law*, by Bruno de Witte, European University Institute, Florence, and on *The Implementation of the Droit de Suite – an Inventory and Reflection in the light of the Community's Cultural Competence*, by Katja Lubina and Hildegard Schneider, Maastricht University. The second session of this part of the conference focused on European law and policy regarding mass media and the film industry. This book includes contributions by Madeleine de Cock Buning, Utrecht University, on *Cultural Diversity in Mass Media Regulation*, and by Sophie De Vinck and Caroline Pauwels, Free University Brussels, *Cultural Diversity as the Final Outcome of EU Policymaking in the Audiovisual Sector: a Critical Analysis*.

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The editors wish to thank Nettie Litjens and Anja Wiesbrock for their invaluable assistance in preparing this book for publication.

Peter Van den Bossche and Hildegard Schneider Maastricht, December 2007/October 2008

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AVMD Audiovisual Media Directive

AVMSD Audiovisual Media Services Directive

Berne Convention Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and

Artistic Works

BYIL The British Yearbook of International Law

CCD UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion

of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

CFI Court of First Instance

CTE Committee on Trade and Environment

DSB Dispute Settlement Body

DSU Dispute Settlement Understanding

EC European Community

ECHR European Convention on Human Rights

EEA European Economic Agreement

EU European Union

GATS General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GDP Gross Domestic Product

General Comment No. 17 on 'The right of everyone to

benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author' (Article 15,

paragraph 1(c) of the Covenant)

ICCPR International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights

ICJ International Court of Justice
ILC International Law Commission
ILM International Legal Materials

INCD International Network for Cultural Diversity
INCP International Network on Cultural Policy

IPRs Intellectual property rights

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food

and Agriculture

List of Abbreviations

IViR Institute for Information Law

JIEL Journal of International Economic Law
MEA Multilateral Environmental Agreements

MFN Most-Favoured Nation

NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement NGO Non-Governmental Organization

Rome Convention International Convention for the Protection of

Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting

Organizations

SCM Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
TRIPS Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual

Property Rights

TWF Television Without Frontiers Directive UDHR Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN United Nations

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization

VCLT Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

WCT WIPO Copyright Treaty

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
WPPT WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty

WTO World Trade Organization

WTO Agreement Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade

Organization

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