



Response to: Call for input on a free trade agreement between the UK and Japan

4 November 2019

The AOI

The Association of Illustrators (AOI) which has 2700+ members, including illustrators' agents and universities, was established in 1973 to advance and protect illustrators' rights and is a non-profit making trade association dedicated to its members' professional interests and the promotion of contemporary illustration. As the only body to represent illustrators and campaign for their rights in the UK, the AOI has successfully increased the standing of illustration as a profession and improved the commercial and ethical conditions of employment for illustrators. AOI offers members professional and business advice.

The illustration sector is almost entirely composed of individual artists, with some SME's in the form of illustration Agents and collectives. Illustrators resident in the UK are commissioned around the world.

Control of illustrators' copyright is the basis on which their income is generated, making it essential that any UK trade deals protect and enforce their creative work to ensure they continue to contribute to the significant financial input of the UK's creative sector.

We commend the existing EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and have some comments below.

International copyright treaties

We wish to emphasise the importance of international treaties as the foundation for effective application of IP provisions for Free Trade Agreements, and believe these should be expressly acknowledged in FTAs.

We encourage the copyright application and rules of trading partners to be up to the UK's standard and the closing of any gaps in trading partners copyright protection.

Collective management

Collective management of rights is an important service for illustrators as they are creators of artworks in books, journals, magazines and reports, which are in demand for those who want to use works in copyright.

EU legislation ensures CMOs work for the benefit of creators whose works they administrate enshrining the basic principles of accountability, accuracy, transparency and good governance. We encourage these principles being referenced in all UK FTAs.

Copyright education

We support the EU-Japan EPA focus on '*promoting public awareness concerning protection of intellectual property*' as it is important for ensuring understanding of copyright and other IP rights.

Protection and enforcement

It is important that an FTA with Japan confirms that rights holders can enforce their rights in Japan if their copyright has been infringed.

Artist's Resale Right

Illustration works are sold in galleries and it continues to be important that artists are able to benefit from the ARR where artworks are sold around the world. Although the EU-Japan EPA refers to continued discussions on the ARR, AOI encourage specific reference to the ARR in the future trade agreement with Japan.

Thank you,

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