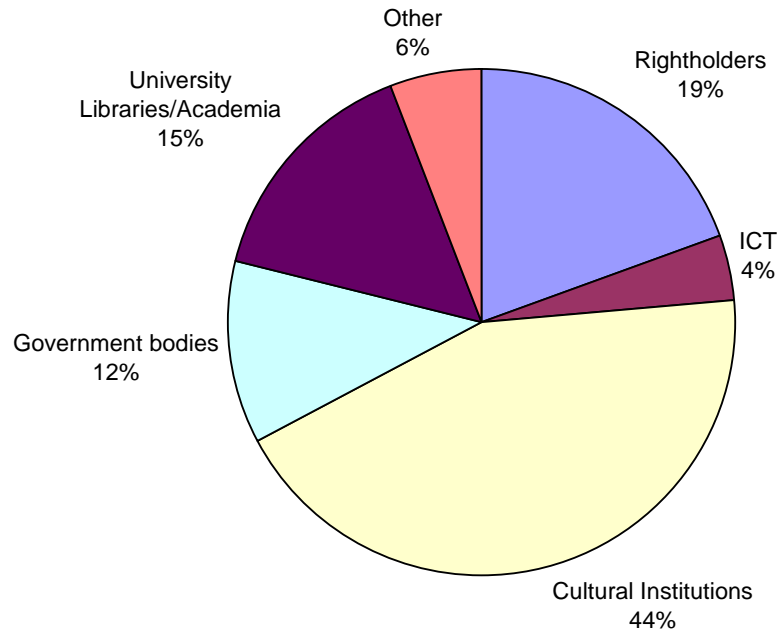# Online consultation "Europeana – Next Steps" Results

Javier Hernandez-Ros
European Commission
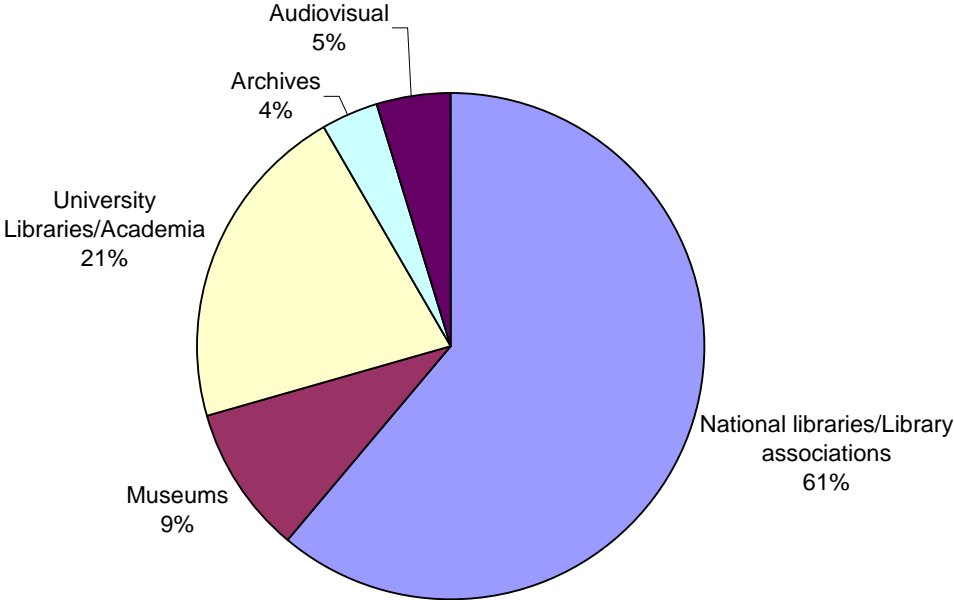
Member States' Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation
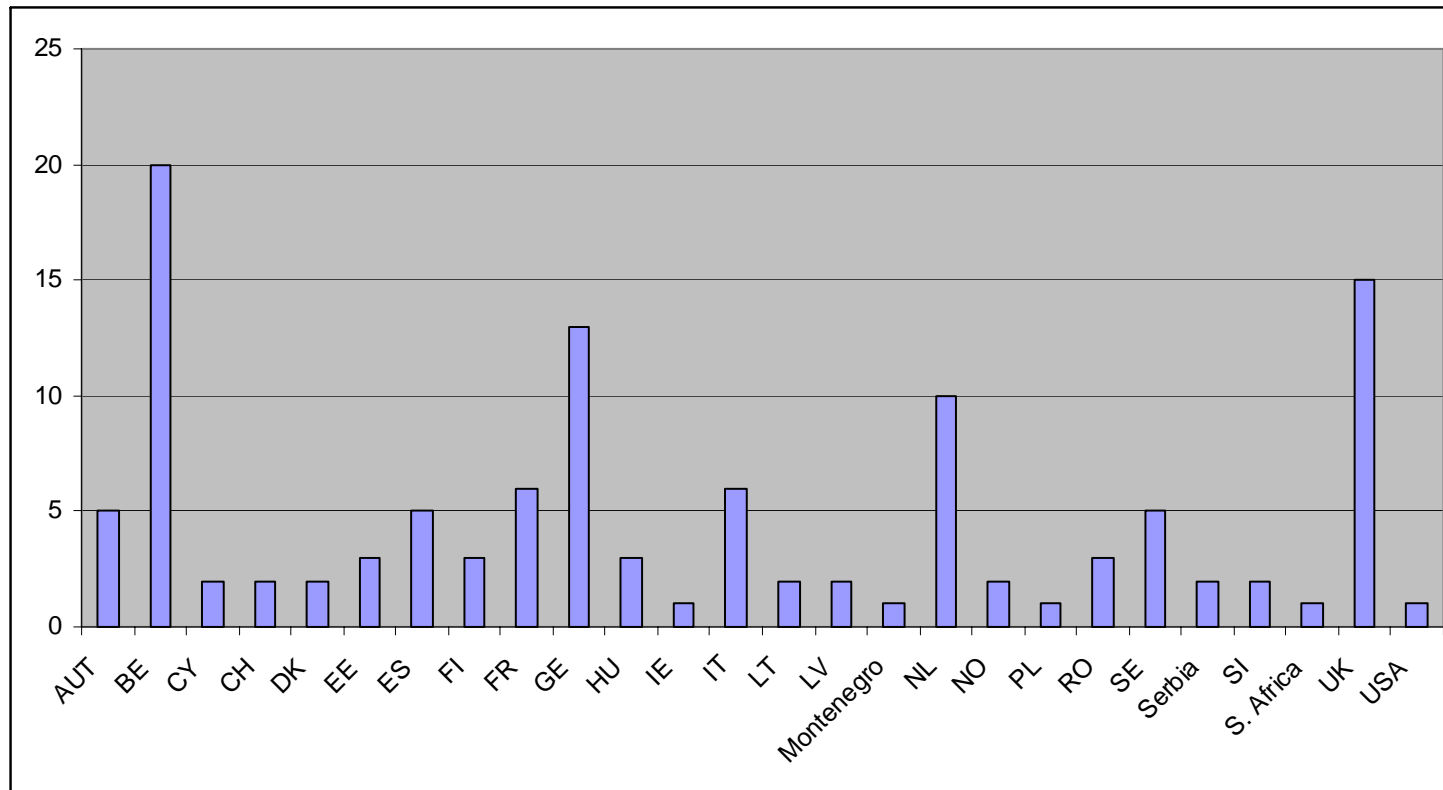*6th Meeting 19 May 2010*

European Commission
Information Society and Media

- Total number of contributions received: 118

- Replies available on the digital libraries website

- Replies by type of organisation:

Percentage of contributions from different cultural institutions

Audiovisual 5%
Archives 4%
University Libraries/Academia 21%
Museums 9%
National libraries/Library associations 61%

Number of contributions per country

General issues: questions 1-5

- Europeana: **very positive endeavour** that needs to be further developed and supported.

- Key issues to be addressed: **multilingualism** (multilingual search, automatic translation), **improving search** (including work on metadata) and **enriching and diversifying the collections**

- Europeana: **rather good balance between an own identity, while respecting the branding of the organisations** holding the content.

- The need for minimum **technical requirements** for the content accessible through Europeana seems to be acceptable for all.

General issues: questions 1-5

- For minimum **use requirements** (e.g. viewing, downloading) a distinction should be made between public domain material and in-copyright material.

- Rightsholders: digitisation and online accessibility need to be achieved in **full respect of the current copyright rules**.

- Cultural institutions: **need for copyright reform and further harmonisation at European level** to create the appropriate conditions for large scale digitisation.

Content for Europeana: questions 6-8

- Consensus about the need to **widen the collections of Europeana** (content from more institutions and countries),

- **Treasures, masterpieces and classics are often quoted as priority content for Europeana**

- Risk of distinction between 'high-quality content' and 'low quality content'.

- Several contributions stress that Europeana should **not just focus on books. Importance of analysis of user needs** for the further development.

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Content for Europeana: questions 6-8

- In-copyright content: rightholders underline that **prior authorisation of the rightholder** should remain the founding principle.

- **Cultural institutions advocate a US type cut-off date** in copyright legislation, in agreements with rightholders or in the practice of digitisation projects, **rightholders are against this idea.**

- Rightholders indicate that there is a **need for incentives for the private sector** to bring in-copyright content into Europeana.

- The **work of ARROW** and the conclusions of the High Level Group on digital libraries are mentioned in several contributions in relation to improving **cross-border access**.

Content for Europeana: questions 9-10

- **Maintaining public domain material in the public domain** once it is digitised is seen as important by cultural institutions.

- The Europeana **Public Domain Charter** is often mentioned in this context. The Charter will have to find a middle way between enforcing this principle and the risk that contributing organisations will refrain from bringing content into Europeana if the material can be re-used by all.

- On the issue of **uncertainty around possible new rights created by digitisation**, cultural institutions advocate a further harmonisation of European copyright legislation. In the short run some further guidance for cultural institutions may be necessary on how to handle the issue.

Financing and Governance: questions 11-16

- - Cultural institutions strongly feel that the **content providers should be running Europeana**. Some Member States indicate they would like to be **better represented in the governance structure** of Europeana.

- General acceptance that there will **also in future be a need for public funding for Europeana**. Many **cultural institutions** would see this funding **coming totally or predominantly from the Community budget**.

- **Sponsorship is generally viewed as a positive opportunity**, although this may depend on the type and definition of sponsorship.

- More **caution is required for advertising** by commercial organisations, especially if this advertising is linked to the cultural objects.

Financing and Governance: questions 11-16

- **Technological partnerships to improve the Europeana** services are seen as important, but this should not lead to a lock-in into proprietary systems.

- **Establishing links from Europeana to sites of commercial content providers** (e.g. publishers) seems **acceptable for a large majority of respondents**, but several contributions underline that Europeana should **not be turned itself into a commercial endeavour**.

- Rightholders stress the **added-value of these links for Europeana** and think they should not be subject to payment for the commercial content providers.