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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Katia Fach Gómez teaches conflict of laws, international arbitration and business transactions at the University of Zaragoza (UZ), Spain. She was an Adjunct Professor at Fordham University (NY), Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, and pre- and post-doctoral grantee at Max-Planck Institut (Germany). She is a member of various European, national (DER 201236806 – Subprograma JURI) and regional research projects (e-Procofis S14/3 DGA). She is the author of several books, book chapters and peer-reviewed papers, and also external reviewer of various international legal journals. She has been the Executive Director of the Excellence Campus at the UZ, and worked as a national expert for the European Commission.

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I am very pleased to be taking on the gratifying task of introducing this double special issue of the *International Journal of Intellectual Property Management*. The ‘Directive 2014/26 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26th February 2014 on collective management of copyright and related rights and multi-territorial licensing of rights in musical works for online use in the internal market’ undeniably merits in-depth study of the type provided by these 11 articles. The international call for papers produced an abundance of contributions, some of which were carefully singled out to form part of this double special issue. The selected papers are highly varied taking into account both to the authors’ backgrounds (they include prestigious scholars, renowned lawyers and relevant stakeholders) and their geographical origins (Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France, Norway, Australia and China). Nevertheless, a clear common thread runs through all the contributions, enabling us to delve into the many questions addressed by the new Directive.

The first part of this double special issue therefore begins with an article reflecting on the Directive’s economic efficiency, more specifically the main pros and cons of collective management organisations as a management choice in this area (Pérez Gómez and Echavarría Arcila). The issue also contains various articles offering in-depth analyses of certain substantial aspects of the Directive: the present and future of reproduction rights organisations is lucidly examined (Stokkmo), while the recourse to alternative dispute resolution procedures in this area – which is likely to increase – is approached from a comparative European perspective (Barnola and Ramírez). Other papers highlight some of the difficult tasks and shortcomings that the Directive may have to address, such as the issue of the mechanical reproduction rights of Anglo-American music repertoires (Anthonis), and the protection of popular culture (Vicente Blanco). In some cases, priority is given to a more national approach, an example of which is the very detailed paper focusing on the evolution, characteristics and challenges of collective management

organisations in Portugal (Castro Rosa). In the second part of this double special issue, Spain receives preferential attention in some articles dealing with the collective management of copyrights (Muñoz Vico); the film and digital content market (Corredoira), and performers' rights in the online environment (López Peláez, Hernández-Pinzón García and Rivas Prieto). Despite the fact that this double special issue is primarily devoted to a European Union Directive that should be transposed by EU Member States by April 2016, the inclusion of the last two articles has the fortunate effect of broadening the scope of this double special issue. The articles focusing on the collective management of music copyright in the USA (Shang), and musical works and audio-video products in China (Li and Cheng) offer readers useful information on two non-European strategic regimes.

To end this guest editor's note, I would like to thank the following external reviewers for their work: Adam Dubin, Ainhoa Vega, Alfredo Maravi, Ana del Arco, Antonio Muñoz Vico, Benoit Missone, Catharine Titi, Christian Handke, Clifford Hendel, Cristina Umaña, Dan Prudhomme, Dominic Mcgonigal, Donald Dong, Emilie Anthonis, Esther Hernández, Fernando Peña López, Francisco Latasa (2), Franz Kundmüller Caminiti, Gabriela Gandara, Giuseppe Mazziotti, Josep Reniu i Vilamala, Julia Maier-Hauff, Laura Carballo Piñeiro, Luis Diaz G. Viana, Luis Fernando Ramos Simón, Manuel Desantes, Martin Delaney, Matthew Kennedy, Néstor Londoño (2), Patricia Akester, Pedro Bueso, Ping-Hsun (Quincy) Chen, Rafael Sánchez, Raul Solorzano, Ross Biggam, Uri Volovelsky (2), Victor Castro Rosa and Wenceslao Gracia Zubiri. Their commitment, expertise and bright ideas have contributed greatly to the success of this special issue. I am convinced that all the submitting authors – whether selected or not – have had the opportunity to rethink and improve their papers by virtue of the external reviewers' suggestions. Generosity is essential when doing good science.

Lastly, I send all my love to Inés, who is still too young to understand why I am working at such ungodly hours.