

**PORTAFERRY DECLARATION ON COPYRIGHT AND VIRTUAL CAMPUS**  
**10.6.2009**

The under signed

- having worked together for several years in an EU funded Thematic Network (LEFIS – Legal Framework for the Information Society) that also dealt with e-learning;
- being Professors of Information Law and experts in education and in e-learning in various EU countries;
- having undertaken research on the possibility of developing, and the related problems in implementing, an EU Virtual Campus;
- having investigated the specific copyright restrictions in e-learning;
- being aware that copyright law is an important form of protection for the innovator and author in the information society, are also aware that copyright needs to be set in balance with the needs of university teaching and research;
- having considered that various EU countries have implemented exemptions to copyright regarding e-learning and the use of educational materials accessible via university intranet networks;
- having met in June 2009 in Portaferry (Northern Ireland) to discuss the problems of constructing effective e-learning infrastructures in Europe;

unanimously propose that the European Commission establishes a pan-European copyright exemption for e-learning regarding the use of specific teaching resources in a virtual library of a type similar to the existing national exemptions mentioned above, including within European-wide Virtual Campi. We believe that such an exemption is essential in order to build a truly European education system built upon the idea of the 'Virtual Campus'.

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