

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

### Rudolf Leška\*

It is my pleasure to present to you this collection of papers and reports which encompasses a substantial amount of our current global knowledge in the field of collective management of authors' and related rights. This volume is an output of the 2019 ALAI Congress held in Prague where scholars and practitioners met to discuss outstanding issues related to collective management at the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the first Czechoslovak collective management organization. While the full schedule of the congress forms an annex to this book, the individual national reports (summarized in this book by Professor Matanovac Vučković) prepared by the respective national groups of ALAI had to be excluded; you can find them online at the official website of the congress at [www.alai2019.org](http://www.alai2019.org). It was a successful congress, held under the auspices of his excellency, the President of the Czech Republic, with the prominent presence of Mr. Archambeau, the executive director of EU IPO, Mrs. Sylvie Forbin, WIPO Deputy Director General, Mr. Gadi Oron, Director General of CISAC and many other representatives of Czech and foreign governments, collective management organizations, academic institutions and legal practitioners. More than 300 attendees from 44 countries across all continents could visit various Czech landmarks and enjoy a performance of the thoroughly Czech opera Dalibor at the National Theatre, a Pinchas Zukerman concert with the Prague Symphony Orchestra or a very pleasant gala dinner with a musical performance of Czech pieces for a piano trio presented by George Spera (piano), Silke von Lewinski (violin) and Tatsuhiro Ueno (violoncello). To mark the occasion, the Prague 1 post office issued a special stamp on the day of the congress with an image of Prague by Jiří Slíva (which was also used as the congress logo).

As the reader can see, in this book we have taken the liberty to arrange the content somewhat unconventionally. Instead of simply copying the order of the panels presented in Prague, we have decided to start with the opening speeches followed by "full-scale" studies that were written by scholars as a follow-up to the speeches that

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they presented at the congress. This part is followed by “reports” – brief papers summarizing the contributions of their writers presented at the congress. The book concludes with the general report and summarizing remarks by Professor Paul Torremans.

Unfortunately, not everyone who participated in the panels at the congress is represented in this volume, since the time constraints and the need to focus on other duties have not allowed everyone to prepare a written summary of their thoughts. It is my sincere hope that the strange times of COVID 19 followed by the shameful invasion of the Russian army in Ukraine will soon be over and that ALAI congresses will once again flourish and attract a large number of attendees. My only advice is to take part in these wonderful events if you do not want to miss cutting-edge thinking on copyright.