

PRESS RELEASE

Munich, 01 August 2026

Dr Constanze Semmelmann became Managing Director of VG WORT effective 1 July 2026

The Board of Directors of VG WORT was appointed the lawyer Dr Constanze Semmelmann as the new Managing Director of VG WORT effective 1 July 2026.

She succeeds Dr Robert Staats, who, after 18 years of highly successful service at VG WORT, will be stepping down at his own request on 30 June 2026 to pursue a career as a practising lawyer specialising in copyright law. Dr Semmelmann will head the Distribution and Licensing division at VG WORT until she joins the Executive Board.

Dr Constanze Semmelmann has been working for ProLitteris, the Swiss collecting society for text and images in Zurich, since 2018. There, she was Head of the Legal Department and, since 2020, a member of the Executive Board. Dr Constanze Semmelmann has also been a lecturer in International and European intellectual property law at the University of St Gallen (Switzerland) since 2019 and publishes regularly on copyright law. She was awarded her doctorate from the University of St Gallen in 2008 with a thesis on European competition law.

Prior to joining ProLitteris, she worked at the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, where she was responsible for the supervision of collecting societies in Switzerland and for representing the Institute at WIPO. Until 2014, following research stays and teaching posts in Europe and North America, she was an associate professor of European business and competition law at the University of Copenhagen.

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