

PRESS RELEASE

Munich, 25 July 2025

Dr Constanze Semmelmann to become Executive Board Member of VG WORT with effect from 1 July 2026

The Board of Directors of VG WORT has appointed the lawyer Dr Constanze Semmelmann as the new Executive Director of VG WORT with effect from 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 with immediate effect 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.

VG WORT is a legally recognised association by virtue of a grant of rights, in which authors and publishers have joined forces since its foundation in 1958 for the collective management of copyright. VG WORT acts in a fiduciary capacity to manage copyrights and remuneration claims on behalf of around 340,000 authors and over 10,000 publishers in Germany.

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