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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The European and Internatioal Booksellers Federation proudly presents its 2024-2029 Manifesto ahead of the upcoming European elections next 6-9 June.

Following up on World Book Day and the last European Parliament plenary session of the 2019-2024 political term, EIBF unveils its new manifesto for the 2024-2029 European legislative term. In a time of growing political polarisation and increased cultural censorship, we outline six priority topics that will steer our work for the booksellers we represent in the years to come.

With the mission of representing our members' interests and advocating for policies that benefit our sector before the European institutions, EIBF rallies in support of our beloved bookshops, underscoring their unique role in our democratic societies.

EIBF Co-President Jean-Luc Treutenaere emphasises that *“Not only are bookshops local businesses that benefit the local economy, they are also cultural hubs and meeting points for people and ideas, simultaneously upholding the fundamental right to freedom of expression and fostering empathy and tolerance through books and stories.”*

In 2024-2029, more than ever, we are:

- **Standing up for freedom of expression;** We continue our work to uphold the freedoms to express, publish and disseminate ideas, books and cultural materials, while acting firmly against all forms of censorship.
- **Standing up for literacy;** We keep calling for initiatives that promote reading, to enable well-informed, democratic participation in society.
- **Embracing digital technologies;** We call for digital legislation that is progressive, innovative and balanced, holding the protection of SMEs at heart.
- **Embracing the green economy;** We embrace green policies and initiatives that empower and support booksellers throughout their environmental transition.
- **Maintaining freedom for small businesses;** We defend the freedom for booksellers to make their own well-informed decisions, to ensure the viability of their businesses for all readers – both now and in the future.
- **Maintaining bookselling as a viable and desirable career path;** We encourage policies and initiatives that acknowledge, support and invest in both high-street businesses and a new generation of booksellers and readers.

With these six priorities at the heart of our work, we continue tirelessly to amplify the voice of booksellers, so that bookshops all over the globe can keep doing what they do best: provide welcoming spaces where people meet, exchange and rejoice in our cultural diversity through stories and literature.

About EIBF: EIBF is a non-commercial European and international umbrella organisation representing national booksellers associations and booksellers around the world. Through its member associations, EIBF speaks on behalf of more than 25,000 individual booksellers.