

against piracy which would allow us to bring successful prosecutions. Piracy is now flourishing in this legal vacuum — it's an open invitation to pirates."

Governments and interested parties in Eastern Europe and the CIS are now trying to bring this "Wild West" situation under control by setting up new structures along western lines. The absence of appropriate legislation is compounded by the lack or weakness of other institutions taken for granted in the West — lobbies representing the interests of publishers and authors do exist but possess neither the expertise nor the clout of their western counterparts, nor are public prosecutors and police forces adequately trained and equipped to deal with piracy on such a large scale.

Some idea of the extent of the problem can be gained by visiting Moscow's video shops. Unauthorized copies of the latest films as well as "oldies" from the 1980s are openly available for sale or hire. All the shops I visited had several copies of *The Silence of Lambs* starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins, which recently won several Oscars. The increasing number of western films now being shown in Russian cinemas and on television generally hit the

But at least these films have helped to familiarize Russian VCR owners with the West, in particular America, which is probably no bad thing.

Piracy is also a major problem for the honest businessman in Eastern Europe and the CIS who wants to be integrated into the world economy and be accepted on an equal footing with his western partners. Pirates evade the considerable license fees to market or sell western material and are thus able to undercut legitimate businessmen, many of whom are struggling to survive as a result. And although the bulk of pirated material is for home consumption, video and audio cassettes and computer software find their way back into Western Europe to be sold at dumping prices. The full extent of such reimporting is unknown but is thought to be significant.

Both East and West therefore have incentives to tackle piracy and try to prevent it reaching the endemic proportions of "specialists" in the Far East such as South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore. Heker says the Borsenverein has had numerous enquiries from Czech, Hungarian and Polish publishers who want to know more about

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