

European Parliament takes step backwards on Copyright in the Digital Single Market

Brussels, 20 June 2018

The European Parliament's Legal Affairs committee (JURI) voted and adopted today their report on the Copyright in the Digital Single Market Directive. The text has not only significantly departed from the Commission's original proposal, but regrettably most of the changes have failed to offer any improvement and instead took even further steps backwards.

"If the main ambition of the Commission and Parliament was to create a non-fragmented Digital Single Market where innovation in the creative sector can flourish, then this result is a complete failure," said Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE.

The European Parliament missed an important opportunity to achieve a meaningful and forward-looking solution on text-and-data mining, which is fundamental for innovation, growth and research in Artificial Intelligence. Instead the proposed solution will only further increase fragmentation among Member States. The contentious new right for press publications and unworkable liability regime with content filtering will damage rather than aid the online and creative market.

"The outcome on this Directive highlights the disjointed and contradictory approach between public statements and actual legislative decisions. The good words and encouraging initiatives on AI, investment and innovation are cut short with a reactionary lack of vision and maintaining of the status quo," said Bonefeld-Dahl.

DIGITALEUROPE urges the European Parliament not to simply accept the outcome of the JURI committee but to have a broader discussion in plenary, to revisit and take into account the impact of the proposal on Europe's competitiveness. Copyright policy cannot be considered as a niche tool only applicable for certain sectors: rules on text-and-data mining, intermediary liability and the sharing of news online have drastic effects on European industry, modern creators, start-ups and civil society.

The evidence gathered by academia, journalists, and even the internal research done by European Parliament and Commission have demonstrated the flaws of the Copyright Directive. Many MEPs and political groups have given this a fair analysis and made proposals to improve the text and deliver a beneficial result to European citizens and businesses. DIGITALEUROPE looks forward to supporting this debate in the coming months, through the Parliament plenary and eventual trilogue negotiations.

--

For more information please contact:

Lionel Sola, Director of Communications and Political Outreach
lionel.sola@digitaleurope.org or +32 492 25 84 32

Jochen Mistiaen, DIGITALEUROPE's Senior Policy Manager
jochen.mistiaen@digitaleurope.org or +32 496 20 54 11

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total over 35,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by 63 Corporate Members and 39 National Trade Associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

DIGITALEUROPE MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Members

Adobe, Airbus, Amazon, AMD, Apple, Bosch, Bose, Brother, Canon, Cisco, Dell, Dropbox, Epson, Ericsson, Fujitsu, Google, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Hitachi, HP Inc., Huawei, IBM, Intel, JVC Kenwood Group, Konica Minolta, Kyocera, Lenovo, Lexmark, LG Electronics, Loewe, MasterCard, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Motorola Solutions, MSD Europe Inc., NEC, Nokia, Nvidia Ltd., Océ, Oki, Oracle, Panasonic Europe, Philips, Pioneer, Qualcomm, Ricoh Europe PLC, Samsung, SAP, SAS, Schneider Electric, Sharp Electronics, Siemens, Sony, Swatch Group, Tata Consultancy Services, Technicolor, Texas Instruments, Toshiba, TP Vision, VMware, Western Digital, Xerox, Zebra Technologies.

National Trade Associations

Austria: IOÖ	Germany: BITKOM, ZVEI	Slovenia: GZS
Belarus: INFOPARK	Greece: SEPE	Spain: AMETIC
Belgium: AGORIA	Hungary: IVSZ	Sweden: Foreningen Teknikföretagen i Sverige,
Bulgaria: BAIT	Ireland: TECHNOLOGY IRELAND	IT&Telekomföretagen
Croatia: Croatian Chamber of Economy	Italy: Anitec-Assinform	Switzerland: SWICO
Cyprus: CITEA	Lithuania: INFOBALT	Turkey: Digital Turkey Platform, ECID
Denmark: DI Digital, IT-BRANCHEN	Luxembourg: APSI	Ukraine: IT UKRAINE
Estonia: ITL	Netherlands: Nederland ICT, FIAR	United Kingdom: techUK
Finland: TIF	Poland: KIGEIT, PIIT, ZIPSEE	
France: AFNUM, Syntec Numérique, Tech in France	Portugal: AGEFE	
	Romania: ANIS, APDETIC	
	Slovakia: ITAS	