

## EDiMA reaction to Plenary vote on JURI copyright mandate:

*Brussels, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018* - EDiMA is delighted that democracy has succeeded in overturning the JURI Committee's mandate to go to trilogue negotiations on the copyright file.

Today, the representatives of EU citizens rallied together and listened to the many voices warning of the dangers of the copyright Directive. Thanks to their decision, MEPs will have the opportunity to duly consider the evidence provided by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, hundreds of academics, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the creator of the World Wide Web.

We urge Members who have not yet had the opportunity to consider all sides of the debate to give due consideration to the wealth of evidence pointing to the broad consequences of the copyright Directive, so that a balance can be found and the future of the Internet safeguarded.

"Today's vote represents a victory for democracy and evidence-based policy making in the European Parliament: Members have resoundingly voted to stall the beginning of the closed-door trilogue negotiations so that they can consider the true ramifications of the copyright Directive. Less than 2% of MEPs have had an opportunity to weigh-in on this divisive file and we now urge the Plenary to listen to the many stakeholders who have provided evidence which demonstrates how the current JURI text could censor the Internet if left unamended" said Siada El Ramly, Director General of EDiMA.

## NOTES TO THE EDITORS

- EDiMA is the European trade association representing online platforms and other innovative businesses. It is an alliance of new media and Internet companies whose members include Airbnb, Allegro, Amazon EU, Apple, eBay, Expedia, Facebook, Google, King, Microsoft, Mozilla, Oath, OLX, Snap Inc., TripAdvisor, Twitter, Veon Digital and Yelp. EDiMA's members provide Internet and new media platforms offering European consumers a wide range of online services, including e-content, media, e-commerce, communications and information/search services.  
<http://edima-eu.org/>
- On 20 June 2018, the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament voted on the proposed Copyright Directive, with 14 voted in favour, 9 voted against and 2 abstained.  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180618IPR06024/copyright-meps-update-rules-for-the-digital-age>
- The European Commission put forward a proposed reform of the Copyright Directive in 2016 and one of the most contentious issues in this reform is the proposed introduction of a pan-European “neighbouring right” (also called Article 11) and the filtering obligation introduced by Article 13.  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52016PC0593>
- Article 11 would create a “neighbouring right” (also called ancillary copyright or publisher right), one which entitles publishers (including newspapers and other media) to prevent websites, search engines, blogs and aggregators from using their content or permitting the sharing of their content without the prior authorisation of the publisher. In practice, sharing of snippets, or possibly even links would be prohibited without a prior agreement between each website looking to share the content and the publisher of the content. The proposed right covers a broad diversity of publications, including blog posts, far beyond printed press publications.  
<https://www.ivir.nl/academics-against-press-publishers-right/>
- Article 13 creates an obligation for Information Society Service Providers to monitor and filter anything that European citizens upload to content-sharing services. In practice, online platforms will have to implement effective content recognition technology to prevent the availability on their services of works or content identified by rightholders and if requested prevent the upload of copyrighted content by users. Online platforms will also need to provide rightholders with adequate information on content recognition, and adequate reporting on the recognition and use of copyrighted content. While this provision makes web hosting services directly liable for their users' activity, it also creates a near automatic editorial responsibility and false positives in the software risk incorrectly censoring the upload of content by users.  
<https://www.liberties.eu/en/news/delete-article-thirteen-open-letter/13194>
- European Data Protection Supervisor's formal comments on the proposal for a Directive on copyright  
<https://edps.europa.eu/node/4812>
- Open letter of 70+ Internet luminaries  
<https://www.eff.org/files/2018/06/13/article13letter.pdf>



- Opinion of the United Nation's Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Opinion/Legislation/OL-OTH-41-2018.pdf>

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