

7 July 2015

Dear MEP,

We represent Internet users, news publishers, consumers, journalists, libraries, civil society organizations, start-ups, online services, Internet service providers and IT companies from all over Europe. We are reaching out to you in the context of the upcoming vote on the so-called “Reda report” on copyright to ask that you take action to protect consumer choice, media pluralism and freedom of expression in Europe.

In view of the upcoming vote on the so-called “Reda report” on copyright:

We urge you to reject amendments that seek to avoid an open and transparent public consultation on the issue of copyright and news publishers, and to support the current compromise amendment on paragraph 57.

A last minute amendment (AM 1) calling for a direct “proposal” from the Commission would give that institution unlimited discretion to table legislation without any proper consultation on a complex issue. It ignores the spirit of the report which systematically calls for evidence and transparency, and not rash actions.

Proposals to protect news publishers and media pluralism with copyright reform could be portrayed in the future as support from the Parliament for the introduction of new, controversial rights for press publishers. Where such new rights have been introduced, they have had no discernable benefits and serve neither journalists nor media pluralism. Such calls for a so-called “ancillary copyright” for publishers should be rejected.

The introduction of “ancillary copyrights” for press publishers in Germany and Spain caused immense controversy. They diminish consumer choice, limit media pluralism and freedom of the press, harm innovation, and constitute an attack on freedom of expression and the open Internet. Publicly available, well-documented evidence demonstrates how these proposals are harmful for a variety of stakeholders which has led to widespread condemnation of such proposals. The Spanish Competition Authority has for example publicly condemned the proposals[1], finding that evidence pointed overwhelmingly against.

We, therefore, urge the European Parliament to not only firmly reject those proposals but to call on the Commission to enforce EU law and protect the Digital Single Market against such measures.

We remain at your disposal for any further information on this issue and remain hopeful that the European Parliament will defend the interest of Europeans in this debate.

Best regards,



bitkom



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European Network for
Copyright in support
of Education and Science

:Freischreiber

Berufsverband
freier Journalistinnen
und Journalisten



FUNDACJA
nowoczesna
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International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions



The Libraries
and Archives
Copyright
Alliance

Openforum europe

open, competitive choice for IT users



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[1]

[http://www.cnmc.es/Portals/0/Ficheros/Promocion/Informes_sobre_normativa/2014/140516_PR
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