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Press release

ENCES strongly disapproves of the current German proposals for a new ancillary copyright in small parts of journalistic articles in favor of media publishers.

The proposed new copyright norm can develop into a serious drawback for free information exchange in the Internet. The proposal would probably make the location and use of journalistic writing generally more difficult. There is a danger that search engines and other meta-information services will cancel their existing news services which will result in a major disorientation in the highly diversified media markets.

In addition, we are concerned that any such new 'right' would obstruct the long-accepted cataloguing and indexing activities of cultural institutions.

New restrictive rights are needless and unwelcome in the very complex field of intellectual property rights. Cultural institutions already have difficulty navigating copyright prescriptions, every day, for the benefit of users of cultural material.

Rather than relying on support by copyright law we invite the media/newspaper industry to develop innovative business models which will keep both access to media information open and the media/newspaper industry active and profitable in the Internet.

ENCES appeals to the members of the German Bundestag not to approve the draft of the German Government for this new ancillary copyright in favor of media publishers. And we also appeal to lawmakers in other European countries not to affiliate to this approach from Germany.



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