

Basis 4608 - Commissioner Oettinger meeting with Committee on Transport and digital infrastructure of the German Bundestag on 4/3/2015

DEFENSIVE POINTS

OUT OF SCOPE

COPYRIGHT REFORM

End of October, you were quoted in the German newspaper Handelsblatt that you wanted to reform copyright in order to make it possible to collect a levy on Google and other commercial users of copyright protected works. Do you intend to create an EU ancillary copyright for press publishers?

- The new Commission is planning a copyright reform. Our goal is to modernise copyright rules in the light of the digital revolution and changed consumer behaviour. For the moment, we are examining possible options. In any event, we want to make sure that creators and those who invest in creation receive a fair remuneration from the online use of their works.

Are you aiming at a directive or a regulation?

- It is important to note that all European legislation on copyright adopted so far consist in Directives. However, no final decision on what instrument we will propose has been taken yet. We are currently reflecting on both the content and on the form of the proposal.

Is copyright reform necessary? Won't it favour big internet companies at the expense of European creators?

- There is nothing unusual in saying that EU copyright rules need updating. The main relevant piece of legislation is the Directive on Copyright in the Information Society ('InfoSoc Directive'), dating back to 2001.
- In the digital environment, copyright rules should continue to reward and provide incentives for creation while allowing access to a wider variety of works, including across borders. The

EU copyright framework needs to take into account new technologies, new uses and new market conditions.

- This does not mean favouring big players or damaging creators. It simply means that – as with other areas of law – copyright rules need to be reviewed in light of the realities of a market that is increasingly digital and fundamentally cross-border in nature.
- We need more clarity in our rules, we need to act when we have the required evidence and we need to inject the dynamics of the single market into our copyright framework.
- This will be a win-win result for all players involved: creators and creative industries, digital companies, consumers, libraries and heritage institutions, researchers and libraries etc.

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