

Commissioner OETTINGER at the EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

9 July 2015

I. Scene setter

Participation in the EP plenary debate on copyright, specifically - the EP JURI's report on the implementation of the Information Society / Copyright Directive 2001/29 ("Reda report").

For DG CONNECT: 

For the Cabinet: Bodo LEHMANN

Estimated duration : 1 hour

Agenda: 08:30 - 11:50 Debates, 2nd point – expected to start around 09:00:

"Harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society

Report: Julia Reda (A8-0209/2015)

Report on the implementation of Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society

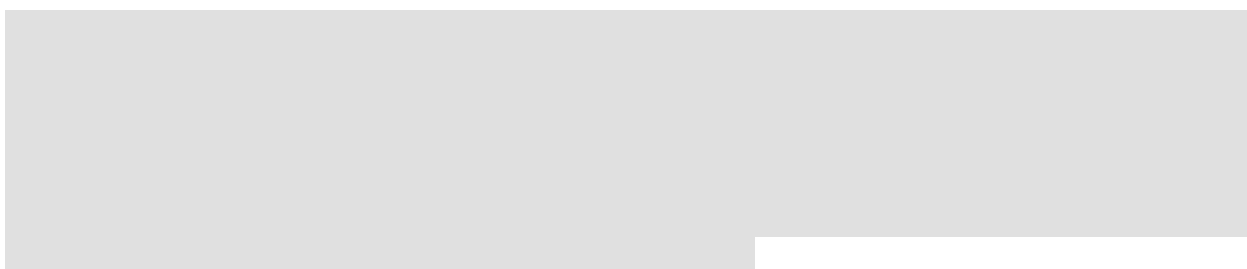
[2014/2256(INI)]

Committee on Legal Affairs"

Objective(s):

Their Position:







[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our Position:

[REDACTED]

Line to Take:

- The report is a detailed document reflecting the complexities and multiple angles of the on-going copyright debate, as well as the need to find workable compromises.
- It is an important element for the Commission to take into account when preparing, in the coming months, its next initiatives on copyright.
- There are similarities between a number of the objectives in the report and those of the Commission as set out in the Digital Single Market Strategy. Notably, there is convergence in the recognition of the need for:
 - a targeted intervention to improve the way copyright works in the digital environment;
 - action in the area of portability and cross-border access to online content services for consumers, while considering the specificities of different creative sectors;
 - having better and more harmonised copyright exceptions for people with disabilities, cultural institutions, research and education;
 - reviewing the role of intermediaries as far as their role as distributors of copyright-protected content is concerned.

II. Speaking points

Speaking points:

Introductory statement

- Thank you very much for this opportunity to open the discussion on copyright and the Parliament's own initiative report in this field.
- First of all, I would like to congratulate you upon addressing this complex matter at the very start of the mandate. The Parliament has an important role to play in a debate that is multifaceted and complex and where many different points of view and interests are represented.
- I know that the consideration of the report has led to multiple discussions and the tabling of hundreds of amendments and that intensive negotiation was required in order to arrive at common positions. I am convinced that this was a necessary process and one that has resulted in a greater understanding by all political groups of this area of legislation.
- Copyright plays an essential role in sustaining Europe's creativity and the industries underpinning it. Let's keep in mind that the industries primarily responsible for the creation and production of copyright-protected works account for approximately 3% of total employment and 4% of Europe's GDP.
- Copyright, or rather our European rules on the matter, also requires continuous adaptation in order to ensure that it keeps playing its role, which is, on the one hand, the protection of creators and cultural industries and, on the other, guaranteeing the widest possible access and dissemination of works, meaning access to culture, knowledge and education, including across borders, in the Digital Single Market.
- I have noted many similarities between a number of the objectives in your own initiative report on copyright and those of the Commission as set out in the Digital Single Market Strategy.
- Notably, there is convergence in the recognition of the need for:
 - a targeted intervention to improve the way copyright works in the digital environment;
 - action in the area of portability and cross-border access to online content services for consumers, while considering the specificities of different creative sectors;
 - having better and more harmonised copyright exceptions for people with disabilities, cultural institutions, research and education;
 - reviewing the role of intermediaries as far as their role as distributors of copyright-protected content is concerned.
- The report, as adopted by the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, is a detailed document reflecting the complexities and multiple angles of the on-going copyright debate, as well as the need to find workable compromises.
- Already this is an important element for the Commission to take into account when preparing, in the coming months, its next initiatives on copyright.
- The Commission's ambition is to achieve the right balance between the different interests.

- On the one hand, citizens and businesses should be able to provide services and have better access to content across borders; our libraries, universities and researchers should have more legal certainty when they adapt their activities to the digital environment.
- On the other hand, copyright must remain a key driver for creativity, innovation and investment in the digital economy, and the whole creative content value chain should ensure adequate reward for those who create and invest in creativity.
- Going forward, we will all need to work together to achieve this aim and I am looking forward to an interesting and open debate.

Concluding remarks

- I would like to thank the European Parliament once again for the priority you are giving to the DSM files in general, and copyright in particular.
- We must be clear that without adapting our copyright rules to the digital age we will not have a true digital single market, and that, at the same time, European creative industries' contribution to growth, jobs, innovation and investment in the digital economy is crucial.
- I have noted your desire to improve the way copyright works while ensuring, at the same time, that European creators and creative industries benefit from a favourable regulatory environment and expand their audiences.
- I am confident we will achieve those objectives, starting by the legislative copyright initiative which the Commission intends to propose by the end of 2015.

Defensives:

OUT OF SCOPE

2. Scope and terms of protection

What is the Commission's view on the copyright protection of newspaper publishers?

- We are closely observing the discussions and recent legislative interventions on this issue in the Member States, notably in Germany and Spain.

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IV. Attachments

Annexes	Status of the annex
- Background document "Assessment of the EP JURI (MEP Julia Reda) report on the implementation of the Information Society / Copyright Directive 2001/29, as adopted by JURI on 18 June 2015"	