



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate B - Services and Investment, Intellectual Property and Public Procurement
Intellectual Property and Public Procurement

Brussels, 17 JUN 2019
DG TRADE B.3./PK/PYA

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Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your joint letter of 15 March 2019 in which you express the satisfaction of your associations as regards the ongoing copyright reform in South Africa.

The European Commission has been following this reform process since its launch in 2015 and we welcome the modernisation of the copyright regime which is key for aligning the South African legislation with international copyright norms, notably those included in the WIPO internet treaties.

As you know, we have provided our views to the Government and National Assembly of South Africa on the draft proposals with a view to improving them in light of the relevant international treaties and standards. The text of the proposals has evolved positively since the first version. In our most recent intervention to the Select Committee on 22 February 2019 we raised a number of remaining concerns, mainly related to exceptions to copyright.

DG TRADE will continue to monitor the developments of the reform and the compatibility of the proposed solutions with international treaties.

Yours faithfully,

Art. 4(1)(b)

Head of Unit