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**Reform of copyright law in the European Union:
The proposed granting of an EU neighbouring right to publishers.**

Dear President Juncker,
Dear Vice-President Ansip,
Dear Commissioner Oettinger,

We are writing to you in relation to the proposal that the Commission may grant an EU neighbouring right to publishers. This idea was raised in the Commission's Communication *Towards a modern, more European copyright framework* (COM (2015) 626 Final, 9th December 2015), and in the *Public consultation on the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and on the 'panorama exception'* (launched 23rd March 2016).

This proposal clearly raises important questions in a wide variety of areas, which need to be considered in detail. As well as issues of European copyright and related laws, these include the impacts of any right on the digital single market, freedom of speech, the healthy functioning of modern democracies, the viability of legacy commercial media institutions, media plurality, the development of and the digital economy and digital social structures, and the efficient functioning of the internet.

Given the significance and complexity of these issues, we would like to draw your attention to a conference Cambridge University's Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law arranged at IViR, University of Amsterdam, on the 23rd April 2016. A recording of the conference can be found at <http://www.cipil.law.cam.ac.uk/seminars-and-events/conference-copyright-related-rights-and-news-eu-assessing-potential-new-laws>. A transcript of this conference is attached.

We are not aware of a fuller debate than that recorded in this transcript. We strongly commend its contents as a significant contribution to the discussion of the advantages

and disadvantages of granting an EU neighbouring right to publishers. We ask that it be directed to the attention of those of your officials dealing with these matters, who are not already aware of it.

We are concerned that at a sensitive time for the EU's economy and its political momentum, wise decisions are taken on these important matters.

Yours sincerely,

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