Dear First Vice-President Timmermans,

We represent Internet users, news publishers, consumers, journalists, libraries, civil society organizations, start-ups, online services, Internet service providers and IT companies from all over Europe.

We write to you in the context of the Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe (DSM) to share our concerns as regards **the European Commission's current approach in consulting on copyright matters**.

The Commission's "Online Platforms consultation" includes some questions on copyright, which had not previously been the subject of consultation. However, critical questions dealing with the creation of new, controversial copyrights for publishers are **only open to right holders to answer**[1], denying European citizens and relevant stakeholders the right to be heard. Further, the Commission is set to adopt a Communication on Copyright on 9th December, which covers these issues, *before* the end of the consultation and a proper analysis of the contributions received.

We urge the European Commission to uphold the better regulation principles, and in particular to ensure that:

- Communications are not released before the end of consultations that are relevant to the subject at hand, and that detailed impact assessments are published before legislative proposals;
- All EU citizens, associations and businesses can participate in Commission consultations and that they are able to respond to any of the questions posed in them;
- Detailed impact assessments are published before legislative proposals;

We remain at your disposal for any further information on this issue and remain hopeful that the European Commission will defend the interest of Europeans in this debate.

AEEPP

anso Associazione Nazionale Stampa Online

bitkom

CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY & TECHNOLOGY

CENTRUM CYFROWE

projekt: polska

COADEC The Coalition for a Digital Economy

COMMUNIA

CCIA COMPUTER & COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

[1] See http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=10932, page 12.

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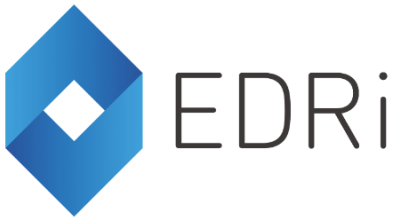
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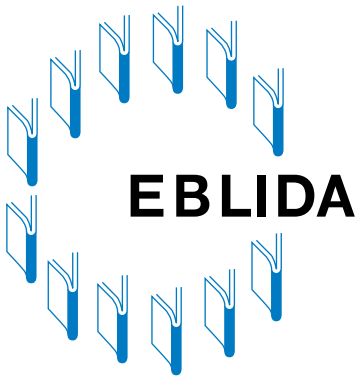
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