Dear Member of the European Parliament,

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**. We believe this approach undermines the **position adopted by the European Parliament in its July 2015 Resolution on the Copyright Directive 2001/29** and call for the Parliament to uphold its position against controversial new forms of copyright.

In our letter to First Vice-President Timmermans (attached), we express our concerns:

> "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".

The Parliament, in its July 2015 Resolution on the Copyright Directive 2001/29/EC and by a majority of 445 votes, clearly rejected the introduction of new, controversial copyrights for news publishers and insisted on transparent and open consultations on copyright.

We urge the European Parliament to uphold its position and to defend the rights of all EU citizens, associations and businesses to engage in an open and transparent debate, 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;
- to defend the rights of all citizens, associations and businesses to participate in open and transparent consultations on copyright;
- to continue opposing the illegitimate introduction of new and controversial copyrights for press publishers, as proposed by Amendment 343 to the Draft Report on the DSM;

We remain at your disposal for any further information on this issue and remain hopeful that the European Parliament will defend the interest of Europeans citizens 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

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

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