

Mr Guy Verhofstadt
Chair
Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
European Parliament
Bât. Paul-Henri Spaak 55C011
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Bruxelles

Brussels 14 March 2019

Dear Mr Verhofstadt,

We, the Presidents of EMMA (European Magazine Media Association), ENPA (European Newspaper Publishers' Association), EPC (European Publishers Council), and Vice-President of NME (News Media Europe) call on your Political Group to vote in favour of the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market in the next plenary at the end of March.

This is a historical opportunity. Without a clear legal protection of press publishers' content such as proposed in Article 11, the sustainability of independent press and professional journalism is at risk, which is why the European legislature needs to redress the existing imbalance in the online ecosystem.

The Press sector, together with different actors of our rich European cultural ecosystem (authors, composers, writers, journalists, photographers, book, and music publishers, audiovisual and independent music producers among others) are calling on the European Parliament to adopt the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (you will find it at annex).

The text agreed in trilogue and subject to the plenary vote addresses all the concerns raised during the debate:

- the hyperlink is safe: it is excluded from the scope of the Publisher's Right and always was.
- the non-commercial use by individual users of press publications will not be affected: they will still be able to link and share articles with friends and family as before.
- journalists will benefit from the right: they will get a share of the revenues.
- individual words or very short extracts of press publications are excluded: they are free to use, including commercially.
- there will be no censorship of the Internet or of upload platforms, instead, platforms ought to conclude licence agreements on content uploaded by users, which should authorise user actions and provide legal certainty.

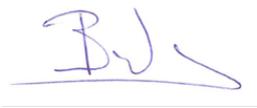
- Article 13 even increases the opportunities for third parties to upload copyrighted works as it includes explicit exceptions such as the right of quotation, an obligation to provide information on cooperation between platforms and right holders and the introduction of a fast and effective complaints mechanism that deals with the unlawful blocking of uploaded content.

We would be delighted to meet with you at your convenience to discuss our points further.

We hope we can count on your support and political leadership to support the digital future of the free and independent press in Europe by adopting the Copyright Directive.

Thank you for your consideration.

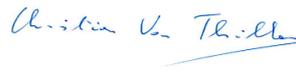
Yours sincerely,



Xavier Bouckaert
EMMA President
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Carlo Perrone
ENPA President
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Christian Van Thillo
EPC President
www.epc.europe.eu



Lord Guy Black
NME Vice-President
www.newsmediaeurope.eu

Signatory organisations:

The European Newspaper Publishers' Association (ENPA) is the largest representative body of newspaper publishers across Europe. ENPA advocates for 16 national associations across 13 European countries, and is a principal interlocutor to the EU institutions and a key driver of media policy debates in the European Union. See: www.enpa.eu

The European Magazine Media Association (EMMA) is the unique and complete representation of Europe's magazine media, which is today enjoyed by millions of consumers on various platforms. EMMA represents 15,000 publishing houses, publishing 50,000 magazine titles across Europe in print and digital. See: www.magazinemedi.eu

The European Publishers Council (EPC) is a high-level group of Chairmen and CEOs of leading European media corporations actively involved in multimedia markets spanning newspaper,

magazine, book, journal, internet and online database publishers, and radio and TV broadcasting. See: www.epceurope.eu

News Media Europe (NME) represents the progressive news media industry in Europe – over 2200 European titles of newspapers, radio, TV and internet. NME is committed to maintaining and promoting the freedom of the press, to upholding and enhancing the freedom to publish, and to championing the news brands which are one of the most vital parts of Europe's creative industries. See: www.newsmediaeurope.eu