

Public consultation on the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and on the 'panorama exception'

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

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Fields marked with * are mandatory.

*

I'm responding as:

- An individual in my personal capacity
- A representative of an organisation/company/institution

*Please provide your first name:

Dimitar

*Please provide your last name:

Dimitrov

*

Please indicate your preference for the publication of your response on the Commission's website:

- Under the name given: I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
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*Please enter the name of your institution/organisation/business.

Wikimedia (FKAGEU)

What is your institution/organisation/business website, etc.?

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/EU_policy

*What is the primary place of establishment of the entity you represent?

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Ireland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

*

My institution/organisation/business operates in: *(Multiple selections possible)*

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Ireland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

*

If other, please specify

Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland

*

Is your organisation registered in the [Transparency Register](#) of the European Commission and the European Parliament?

- Yes
 No

*

Please indicate your organisation's registration number in the Transparency Register.

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The role of publishers in the copyright value chain

In its Communication Towards a modern, more European copyright framework of 9 December 2015, the Commission has set the objective of achieving a well-functioning market place for copyright, which implies, in particular, "the possibility for right holders to license and be paid for the use of their content, including content distributed online." [1]

Further to the Communication and the related stakeholders' reactions, the Commission wants to gather views as to whether publishers of newspapers, magazines, books and scientific journals are facing problems in the digital environment as a result of the current copyright legal framework with regard notably to their ability to licence and be paid for online uses of their content. This subject was not specifically covered by other public consultations on copyright issues the Commission has carried out over the last years. In particular the Commission wants to consult all stakeholders as regards the impact that a possible change in EU law to grant publishers a new neighbouring right would have on them, on the whole publishing value chain, on consumers/citizens and creative industries. The Commission invites all stakeholders to back up their replies, whenever possible, with market data and other economic evidence. It also wants to gather views as to whether the need (or not) for intervention is different in the press publishing sector as compared to the book/scientific publishing sectors. In doing so, the Commission will ensure the coherence of any possible intervention with other EU policies and in particular its policy on open access to scientific publications. [3]

*

Selection

Do you wish to respond to the questionnaire "The role of publishers in the copyright value chain"?

- Yes *(Please allow for a few moments while questions are loaded below)*
 No

[1] [COM\(2015\)626 final](#).

[2] Neighbouring rights are rights similar to copyright but do not reward an authors' original creation (a work). They reward either the performance of a work (e.g. by a musician, a singer, an actor) or an organisational or financial effort (for example by a producer) which may also include a participation in the creative process. EU law only grants neighbouring rights to performers, film producers, record producers and broadcasting organisations. Rights enjoyed by neighbouring rightholders under EU law generally include (except in specific cases) the rights of reproduction, distribution, and communication to the public/making available.

[3] See Communication [COM\(2012\) 401](#), Towards better access to scientific information: Boosting the benefits of public investments in research, and Recommendation [C\(2012\) 4890](#) on access to and preservation of scientific information.

Category of respondents

*Please choose the category that applies to your organisation and sector.

- Member State
- Public authority
- Library/Cultural heritage institution (or representative thereof)
- Educational or research institution (or representative thereof)
- End user/consumer/citizen (or representative thereof)
- Researcher (or representative thereof)
- Professional photographer (or representative thereof)
- Writer (or representative thereof)
- Journalist (or representative thereof)
- Other author (or representative thereof)
- Collective management organisation (or representative thereof)
- Press publisher (or representative thereof)
- Book publisher (or representative thereof)
- Scientific publisher (or representative thereof)
- Film/audiovisual producer (or representative thereof)
- Broadcaster (or representative thereof)
- Phonogram producer (or representative thereof)
- Performer (or representative thereof)
- Advertising service provider (or representative thereof)
- Content aggregator (e.g. news aggregators, images banks or representative thereof)
- Search engine (or representative thereof)
- Social network (or representative thereof)
- Hosting service provider (or representative thereof)
- Other service provider (or representative thereof)
- Other

Questions

1. On which grounds do you obtain rights for the purposes of publishing your press or other print content and licensing it? (*Multiple selections possible*)

- transfer of rights from authors
- licensing of rights from authors (exclusive or non-exclusive)
- self-standing right under national law (e.g. author of a collective work)
- rights over works created by an employee in the course of employment
- not relevant
- other

Please explain

Creative Commons licenses or public domain works on collaborative projects like Wikipedia. Content remains property of authors.

2. Have you faced problems when licensing online uses of your press or other print content due to the fact that you were licensing or seeking to do so on the basis of rights transferred or licensed to you by authors?

- yes, often
- yes, occasionally
- hardly ever
- never
- no opinion
- not relevant

If so, please explain what problems and provide examples indicating in particular the Member State, the uses you were licensing, the type of work and licensee.

3. Have you faced problems enforcing rights related to press or other print content online due to the fact that you were taking action or seeking to do so on the basis of rights transferred or licenced to you by authors?

- yes, often
- yes, occasionally
- hardly ever
- never
- no opinion
- not relevant

If so, please explain what problems and provide examples indicating in particular the Member State, the type of use and the alleged infringement to your rights.

4. What would be the impact on publishers of the creation of a new neighbouring right in EU law (in particular on their ability to license and protect their content from infringements and to receive compensation for uses made under an exception)?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

Publishers already have protection on their content under copyright. Uses made under exceptions are free, which is the whole idea of the system of limitations and exceptions. A new neighbouring right would not only cover publishers in the traditional sense, but everybody, including users and user-generated projects.

5. Would the creation of a new neighbouring right covering publishers in all sectors have an impact on authors in the publishing sector such as journalists, writers, photographers, researchers (in particular on authors' contractual relationship with publishers, remuneration and the compensation they may be receiving for uses made under an exception)?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

The results we can observe in the countries that attempted this are negative through the board. Both publishers and journalists are losing traffic and exposure of their content, leading to a drop in revenues.

6. Would the creation of a neighbouring right limited to the press publishers have an impact on authors in the publishing sector (as above)?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

"Authors" includes people who contribute user-generated content.

7. Would the creation of a new neighbouring right covering publishers in all sectors have an impact on rightsholders other than authors in the publishing sector?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

Yes, it would. One example is software developers, including the ones that create free software.

8. Would the creation of a neighbouring right limited to the press publishers have an impact on rightsholders other than authors in the publishing sector?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

We don't see how press publishers would be legally separated from everyone else. Wouldn't the project WikiNews (<https://www.wikinews.org/>) be considered a press publisher? In this case it would be very much an unwanted right that creates obstacles to the development of free, open and user-generated journalism.

9. Would the creation of a new neighbouring right covering publishers in all sectors have an impact on researchers and educational or research institutions?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

It would heavily impede the linking to sources, references and quoting practices common to scientific research and educational materials.

10. Would the creation of a neighbouring right limited to press publishers have an impact on researchers and educational or research institutions?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

Idem: It would heavily impede the linking to sources, references and quoting practices common to scientific research and educational materials.

11. Would the creation of new neighbouring right covering publishers in all sectors have an impact on online service providers (in particular on their ability to use or to obtain a licence to use press or other print content)?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

It would inevitably hinder the way information is exchanged (shared & found) on the internet, which is one of its greatest advantages compared to previous technologies.

12. Would the creation of such a neighbouring right limited to press publishers have an impact on online service providers (in particular on their ability to use or to obtain a licence to use press content)?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

We would simply use less press content online, which will diminish its role in society.

13. Would the creation of new neighbouring right covering publishers in all sectors have an impact on consumers/end-users/EU citizens?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

Finding content would become harder, which would lead to less choice. Ultimately and inevitably, access to knowledge would be limited by such a right.

14. Would the creation of new neighbouring right limited to press publishers have an impact on consumers/end-users/EU citizens?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

Idem: Finding content would become harder, which would lead to less choice. Ultimately and inevitably, access to knowledge would be limited by such a right.

15. In those cases where publishers have been granted rights over or compensation for specific types of online uses of their content (often referred to as "ancillary rights") under Member States' law, has there been any impact on you/your activity, and if so, what?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain, indicating in particular the Member State.

Harder to cite/reference news content. Harder to find news content. Overall, news content is being less used.

16. Is there any other issue that should be considered as regards the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and the need for and/or the impact of the possible creation of a neighbouring right for publishers in EU copyright law?

- Yes
- No

If so, please explain and whenever possible, please back up your replies with market data and other economic evidence.

Considering that previous attempts in this direction (Spain and Germany) have failed by all measures and accounts, how would the European Commission reconcile this new neighbouring right with its "Better Regulation" principles?

Use of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places (the 'panorama exception')

EU copyright law provides that Member States may lay down exceptions or limitations to copyright concerning the use of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places (the 'panorama exception') [1]. This exception has been implemented in most Member States within the margin of manoeuvre left to them by EU law.

In its Communication Towards a modern, more European copyright framework, the Commission has indicated that it is assessing options and will consider legislative proposals on EU copyright exceptions, among others in order to "clarify the current EU exception permitting the use of works that were made to be permanently located in the public space (the 'panorama exception'), to take into account new dissemination channels." [2]

This subject was not specifically covered by other public consultations on copyright issues the Commission has carried out over the last years. Further to the Communication and the related stakeholder reactions, the Commission wants to seek views as to whether the current legislative framework on the "panorama" exception gives rise to specific problems in the context of the Digital Single Market. The Commission invites all stakeholders to back up their replies, whenever possible, with market data and other economic evidence.

*

Selection

Do you wish to respond to this questionnaire "Use of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places (the 'panorama exception')?"

- Yes *(Please allow for a few moments while questions are loaded below)*
 No

[1] Article 5(3)(h) of [Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society.](#)

[2] [COM\(2015\) 626 final.](#)

Category of respondents

*

Please choose the category that applies to your organisation and sector.

- Member State
- Public authority
- Owner or manager of works made to be located permanently in public places (or representative thereof)
- Library or Cultural heritage institution (or representative thereof)
- Educational or research institution (or representative thereof)
- End user/consumer/citizen (or representative thereof)
- Visual artist (e.g. painter, sculptor or representative thereof)
- Architect (or representative thereof)
- Professional photographer (or representative thereof)
- Other authors (or representative thereof)
- Collective management organisation (or representative thereof)
- Publisher (or representative thereof)
- Film/audiovisual producer (or representative thereof)
- Broadcaster (or representative thereof)
- Phonogram producer (or representative thereof)
- Performer (or representative thereof)
- Advertising service provider (or representative thereof)
- Content aggregator (e.g. news aggregators, images banks or representative thereof)
- Search engine (or representative thereof)
- Social network (or representative thereof)
- Hosting service provider (or representative thereof)
- Other service provider (or representative thereof)
- Other

Questions

1. When uploading your images of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places on the internet, have you faced problems related to the fact that such works were protected by copyright?

- Yes, often
- Yes, occasionally
- Hardly ever
- Never
- No opinion
- Not relevant

If so, please explain what problems and provide examples indicating in particular the Member State and the type of work concerned.

A considerable amount of the resources of each Wikimedia project is dedicated to make sure copyright laws are fully respected. This is a *conditio sine qua non*, as liability exceptions that we rely on apply if we act in good faith. Images depicting public spaces in Europe are deleted almost daily. This not only destroys work of people who wish to contribute to the public good, but also ties up volunteer and paid resources that would otherwise be used to improve access to knowledge globally. We are also often challenged with borderline cases where it is not clear if a certain photograph or depiction falls under the exception. This consumes additional time and sometimes external expertise and even then we are sometimes left with ambiguous guidance.

2. When providing online access to images of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places, have you faced problems related to the fact that such works were protected by copyright?

- Yes, often
- Yes, occasionally
- Hardly ever
- Never
- No opinion
- Not relevant

If so, please explain what problems and provide examples indicating in particular the Member State and the type of work concerned

We're bound by the good faith principle, upon which liability exceptions are conditional, to delete images from countries with none or a limited exception (see Luxembourg, France, Italy, Belgium and Greece for a selection). We also experience some difficulties in countries that nominally have applied a more comprehensive exception. In these cases particular constraints in national law or the claims of rightsholders force us to spend resources on investigating individual cases. Some examples can be seen at: Freedom of Panorama cases in Poland, Sweden, Hungary, Portugal and the Netherlands.

3. Have you been using images of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places, in the context of your business/activity, such as publications, audiovisual works or advertising?

- Yes, on the basis of a licence
- Yes, on the basis of an exception
- Never
- Not relevant

If so, please explain, indicating in particular the Member State and what business/activity, and provide examples.

Yes, when images can safely be included in creative and innovative process on the basis of comprehensive national exceptions, they are being re-used as part of commercial activity. Examples include postcards, merchandise like t-shirts, mugs and calendars, photography books, tourist guides, artistic works including paintings and films and web page design. Attempts to reach licensing agreements with collecting societies to release at least one freely licensed image of major landmarks have so far failed. Individual architects or sculptors have granted the necessary permission, but these experiences have proven to be very time-consuming.

4. Do you license/offer licences for the use of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places?

- Yes
- No
- Not relevant

If so, please provide information about your licensing agreements (Member State, licensees, type of uses covered, revenues generated, etc.).

FYI: Past attempts to reach licensing agreements with collecting societies have not been successful, as the agreements offered were not permissive enough to cover even everyday online uses. The European Parliament has attempted to give Wikimedia permission to re-use the image of its Strasbourg principal building (Louise Weisse), but failed because the rights remain with the architect.

5. What would be the impact on you/your activity of introducing an exception at the EU level covering non-commercial uses of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

It would force us to delete hundreds of thousands of images of public spaces from half the EU countries. It is practically impossible to categorise user generated content as non-commercial. Wikipedia's and other free knowledge projects that are widely available have a scope that can very well be considered of commercial scale. Sites that allow users to exchange works run ads or have subscription fees which makes them a priori commercial. Virtually every case of user generated content will, in way or another, be considered commercial. Limiting what is allowed to just a very few and unclear cases will interfere with free speech and impede creativity online.

If it would be a "baseline" exception, allowing Member States to keep or introduce a stronger solution, allowing all uses, it would have "no impact".

6. What would be the impact on you/your activity introducing an exception at the EU level covering both commercial and non-commercial uses of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be located permanently in public places?

- strong positive impact
- modest positive impact
- no impact
- modest negative impact
- strong negative impact
- no opinion

Please explain

It would allow free knowledge projects like Wikipedia to depict public spaces from all European countries, thus improving access to knowledge and availability of European culture globally. It would enable the largest photography contest in the world to be organised in all European countries (a number of them are currently excluded due to the lack of full Freedom of Panorama). It would allow travel bloggers and travel guides to safely share their European experiences with potential future travellers. It would allow for far more quality educational material for young architects and sculptors. Artists would be allowed to paint street scenes across the continent, potentially reviving a lost art.

7. Is there any other issue that should be considered as regards the 'panorama exception' and the copyright framework applicable to the use of works, such as works of architecture or sculpture, made to be permanently located in public places?

- Yes
- No

If so, please explain and whenever possible, please back up your replies with market data and other economic evidence.

Some countries that have implemented comprehensive Freedom of Panorama exceptions (e.g. allowing commercial use) have different ways approaches to specifying the rule. In Germany, for instance, the POV of the photographer/painter is considered, who needs to be standing on a public place. In most other countries the structure/sculpture itself needs to be built on a public throughfare. Such peculiarities have lead to legal uncertainties and even litigation. Moreover, other types of rules such as antiquity laws that apply in some Mediterranean countries narrow down the practical threshold of Freedom of Panorama exceptions even further and aggravate the complexity issue for citizen-driven projects.

Submission of questionnaire

End of survey. Please submit your contribution below.

Useful links

[Webtext EN \(https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/news-redirect/29674\)](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/news-redirect/29674)

Background Documents

[Privacy Statement DE \(/eusurvey/files/08c163a2-8983-4d3b-ae3e-21f69b5957cd\)](/eusurvey/files/08c163a2-8983-4d3b-ae3e-21f69b5957cd)

[Privacy Statement EN \(/eusurvey/files/217d6300-2bbe-4a51-aba4-0371c246dc9d\)](/eusurvey/files/217d6300-2bbe-4a51-aba4-0371c246dc9d)

[Privacy Statement FR \(/eusurvey/files/43cedbae-8123-4596-94ce-b526019329e5\)](/eusurvey/files/43cedbae-8123-4596-94ce-b526019329e5)

[Webtext DE \(/eusurvey/files/3abc4c0f-c0e6-4ece-99a3-2bebbba8c65d3\)](/eusurvey/files/3abc4c0f-c0e6-4ece-99a3-2bebbba8c65d3)

[Webtext FR \(/eusurvey/files/df02a573-838f-45e7-912d-8231ee8cdbcd\)](/eusurvey/files/df02a573-838f-45e7-912d-8231ee8cdbcd)

Contact

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