It's time to fix copyright in Europe: Support Freedom of Panorama.



On September 12, the European Parliament will vote on amendments to their proposed EU Copyright Directive. This is a rare opportunity for the European people to define and shape a legal framework that will affect the way they use the internet every day.

Why support Freedom of Panorama?

Freedom of Panorama allows anyone to take photographs of public buildings and artwork and share them online. While this seems like a commonplace right that everyone should enjoy, Europe has a patchwork of regulations about what photographs you can and can't share online, leading to important cultural and historic sites being essentially erased from the web. A Europe-wide freedom of panorama exception would allow everyone, everywhere to share their hometown with the world.

Who benefits from Freedom of Panorama?

Photographers. Freedom of Panorama removes barriers to create and show images of public spaces, allowing photographers to focus on their art rather than worrying about the law.

Architects. Architects are the main stakeholder in Freedom of Panorama as they actually benefit from their works being shared and talked about. When it comes to revenue, architects across Europe are earning more money in countries with a full exception.

Game Developers. Virtual reality applications rely on being able to legally photograph and film public spaces. Freedom of Panorama allows developers to include these public spaces in smart city apps and games.

Audio-Visual Artists. Whether it be for documentaries, or exciting feature films -- filmmakers widely use Freedom of Panorama, which is an important criteria when selecting filming locations.

Wikimedia. Right now, freedom of panorama exceptions are not harmonized across the European Union. For projects like Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia, this type of uncertainty often means that contributors need to be overly cautious in what they upload, which can result in articles about public spaces or artwork in Europe not being illustrated with actual pictures of those places.

Tourism. Countries and cities invest in modern art and architecture to gain international attention and attract tourists. When images of those works in their public context can be freely shared, it helps promote tourism to those locations.

Visit https://fixcopyright.wikimedia.org to tell your representative to support Freedom of Panorama.

