

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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

General information about you

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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:

John

*Please provide your last name:

Doove

*

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.
- Anonymously: 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.
- Please keep my contribution confidential. (it will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

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*Please enter the name of your institution/organisation/business.

SURFmarket

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

www.surf.nl

*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

*

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

As a representative of educational institutions we do not obtain rights for the purposes of publishing press or other print content

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.

We are not a publisher of scientific content. However if we publish material on our website or through other channels we aim to reach a wide audience, so all linking, harvesting and indexing that information is welcomed and should be as easy as possible.

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 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 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

Neighbouring rights would complicate the free flow of information. Specifically when it comes to linking to content. For those publishers that are relatively small (there are many for example new Open Access publishers) it is important that they generate traffic to their websites. That traffic is often generated through linking by aggregators. Taking away the ability to freely link would hurt their business greatly. All in all we can not see any benefit for the publishing industry in its totality.

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

As the term publisher is widely used (any author the posts content online) we would definitely see a strong negative impact on authors wanting to be read... Simply put linking through other sources (e.g. news aggregators) increases visibility for authors.

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

If an author wishes to republish his/her work , the publisher where this work was published first holds rights to that article and could therefor prohibit it from being published elsewhere. Not in the interest of the author nor in the interest of dissemination of knowledge.

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

In whichever case in publishing, the rightholder should be the creator. Not a third party delivering services on top of that content. In the case of service provision anyone using that service might pay, but providing a service does not earn the service provider any legal claim/right on the content itself.

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

For whichever piece of content the rightholder is the creator (i.c. the author). Creating another rightholder will always restrict (or complicate) the free flow of information. Not a good idea.

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

In all sorts of activities being able to link to published content is essential for researchers and educational institutions. Think of online learning platforms linking to relevant content. Think of newsletters of a universities pointing to research their researchers produced. Think of Text and Data mining used in research to discover new patterns in research. Putting that sort of linking and referring at the risk of being held back by a pay wall (which could be set in place when publishers would hold neighbouring right to that material) is detrimental for research and educational institutions. Furthermore it would add another layer of complexity in the already complicated process of publishing work under copyright, for authors, institutions, libraries and publishers alike. A layer where licences on content suddenly also could include negotiations for the neighbouring rights.

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

We apply the same reasoning to hold for press publishers as for all publishing sectors see question #9.

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

At SURF we have a strong agenda on 'open'. Open Access, Open Education, Open Science. We feel strongly that Open is the way of the future. Openness inspires transparency and integrity in research and education, increases knowledge transfer between science and society and thus spurs innovation. This agenda is dependent on accessible and findable information. Neighbouring rights for publishers would stand in the way of this open agenda as it prohibits the free flow of information between online databases, web services and other online sources.

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

As already indicated in the answer in response to question #11. Granting publishers neighbouring rights fundamentally goes against the agenda of the free flow of information. Which in general is actually the entire reason d'être of the internet. Easy sharing and linking of sources. We strongly appeal to the EC not to put the great potential the internet has for knowledge dissemination (in particular in research and education) under threat.

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

As stated in the previous questions we strongly feel that everyone that seeks out knowledge on the internet would be negatively impacted by a granting of neighbouring rights to publishers. It introduces a possible extra barrier for the free flow of information. Free flow of information (of course without infringing upon the rights of the actual author of the content itself) in this day and age, also taking the much valued current vision of Open Science of the EC into account, is not something we can afford to meddle with.

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

We refer to the answer as given to question #13

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.

We know of two countries that have gone down this or a similar route. Spain and Germany. It seems especially smaller publishers of content have been negatively impacted. Since they relied heavily on being linked to (since they haven't got the resources to provide a big powerful and very well indexed platform for publishing). A negative impact on smaller publishers could mean less choice for authors where to publish, less competition and therefore possibly less quality and/or higher prices. It has also increased the burden of sharing content through licensing significantly since more terms no need to be agreed upon before content can be linked to.

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.

We value a fair copyright system, where creators of content justifiably get rewards for their efforts, discoveries and creation. However we feel new neighbouring copyright would add nothing but a burden for licensing the sharing of content and introduce a big risk to the free flow of information, which is so essential for progress in terms of research, education and innovation. We are very pleased and impressed with the strong efforts of the European Commission to push for Open Science. And we definitely back the recently published Call for Action that includes many useful actions to fully take advantage of the possibilities that the digital world has to offer. This proposal would in our opinion actually completely go against the push for Open Science because it jeopardizes free flow of (scientific) information which is at the core of Open Science. We hope the European Commission would back Open Science rather than the extension of copyright to neighbouring rights for publishers, which in our opinion would actually have no benefit for anyone.

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.](#)

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 \(/eusurvey/files/3abc4c0f-c0e6-4ece-99a3-2bebba8c65d3\)](/eusurvey/files/3abc4c0f-c0e6-4ece-99a3-2bebba8c65d3)

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

Contact

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