



RESOLUTION:

Ensuring a Free Internet within the European Union

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting, Rome, Italy on the 10th of February 2017

Recognizing that:

- The European Commission has presented proposals that would harm the free use of internet for EU citizens through Article 11 (regarding extra copyright for publishers) and Article 13 (regarding mandatory upload monitoring) of the Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market¹ which is currently being deliberated.
- If enacted, these proposals would go against some of the priorities set out in the Digital Single Market strategy (e.g. "facilitate wider online availability of content across the EU"²).
- If enacted, the proposals risk forcing Internet companies to filter all uploads made to their sites by checking for copyrighted material beforehand, rather than as today remove content following copyright claims.
- If enacted, the proposals risk forcing Internet users to pay a license to the publisher in order to share snippets of news articles, even if a link to the source is provided, by extending copyright protection to press publishers.

Acknowledging that:

- Many stakeholders in the industry, including tech companies such as Google and Mozilla and digital rights' groups such as the Open Rights Group, are against the proposals³.
- Aside from individual Internet users, the negative consequences of these proposals would affect startups, small companies and non-profits the most.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52016PC0593&from=EN>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/node/78515>

³ <https://techcrunch.com/2016/09/14/eu-digital-copyright-reform-proposals-slammed-as-regressive/>

YEPP calls on:

- The suggested Articles 11 and 13 of the coming Digital Directive to be revised.
- The European Union to not hamper the free flow of information on the Internet.
- The European Commission to give more consideration to Internet users and less to powerful copyright holders when forming digital legislation.