



*From left to right: Isabelle Buschke (VZBV), Magnus Franklin (Mlex), MEP Pavel Svoboda and ECSA President Alfons Karabuda
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Authors and Consumers in Dialogue

On 27 January 2016, authors, composers, journalists, film directors and screenwriters met with consumer representatives in the European Parliament to discuss the future of creativity in the online environment. The event was hosted by MEP Pavel Svoboda (EPP), Chair of the EP's Juridical Committee in charge of copyright legislation among other matters.

The event was divided into three panels where authors and consumers got into a dialogue about topics related to (i) access to culture and information, (ii) fair remuneration and better contractual arrangements for authors, (iii) the role and responsibilities of traditional and online intermediaries, as well as (iv) new forms of creation such as remixing, sampling and user-generated content.

Whilst some different views were highlighted by the consumer and author representatives, it appeared that a common ground on issues such as new forms of creation and the responsibility of online platforms could be elaborated.

A point that was re-iterated several times by both parties is that more legal offer of qualitative and diverse cultural repertoires, as well as more fairness in copyright contracts would benefit both consumers and authors.

Finally, both parties agreed that the event represented a historic moment for future collaboration. MEP Pavel Svoboda concluded that a dialogue among authors and consumers is essential in light of the upcoming modernization of EU copyright rules.

EC announces preliminary online platforms and geo-blocking consultation results

According to the European Commission, views are divided among those who consider the liability regime under the E-commerce Directive still valid for its purpose and those who request clarification and guidance for its implementation. Another approach considers a rebalancing of interests via the establishment of further categories of intermediary services besides those of mere conduit/caching/hosting. ECSA responded to the consultation, calling for establishing legal mechanisms to ensure that online platforms cannot rely on "safe-harbour" to deny their responsibility in remunerating authors and other right holders for the exploitation of their works on online platforms.

The Commission is now carrying out an in-depth analysis of the replies to the public consultation. A full report will be published online in spring 2016.

ECSA February Session 2016 fast approaching

As January is coming to an end, the ECSA office prepares for an eventful month with the General Assembly in Brussels and different cultural projects. On 15 February 2016, the NMI concert will be held in the artistic workspace Q-O2 in Molenbeek. The concert will feature 16 performers from 14 different countries. On the following evening, 16 February 2016, ECSA invites all members to this year's first ECCO concert which will be held at Studio 1 in Flagey. The ECCO concert will feature the Sturm und Klang ensemble who will perform pieces of composers Michael Berkeley (UK), Julian Grant (UK), Moritz Eggert (GER), Olli Virtaperko (FIN), Philippe Leroux (FR) and Peter Helmut Lang (GER). To reserve your seats for the concert, please send an e-mail to francisca.aas@composeralliance.org. We look forward to seeing you all in Brussels!

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