

To:

Executive Vice-President
for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy
Ms. Henna Virkkunen
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Bruxelles

Via email: Henna.VIRKKUNEN@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, February 11, 2025

Joint Letter – Copyright Levies Reform

Dear Executive Vice-President Virkkunen,

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations on your appointment as Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy of the European Commission and wish you every success and strength for the coming years!

The European Union (EU) is at a crucial stage in which it is seeking to strengthen its digital ecosystem and the digital market while tackling complex regulatory challenges.

In this context, we believe that one topic deserves renewed attention: **the reform of the copyright levy system**. This system, first introduced in Europe in the 1960s, is outdated, fragmented and not fit for purpose anymore.

The current levies system, which involves different national systems across the EU, discourages cross-border trade, distorts prices and availability, and imposes a huge administrative burden on businesses. In short, it significantly affects the internal market and the competitiveness of companies operating in the EU.

In recent years, private copying has fallen drastically, while streaming services have increased massively. Nevertheless, the levy system remains substantially unchanged resulting in “double-charging” for consumers who pay not only for content subscriptions they use but also copyright levies on the relevant devices and/or media.

Businesses are also affected as they are forced in many countries to pay copyright levies for private copying even if the devices and/or media are used exclusively for ‘exempt’ business purposes.

Signed by**National Trade Organizations**

- AGEFE Associação Portuguesa da Indústria Eletrodigital (Portugal)
- AFNUM – Alliance Française des Industries du Numérique (France)
- AMETIC (Spain)
- Anitec-Assinform (Italy)
- ASE - Asociace spotřební elektroniky (Czech Republic)
- Bitkom (Germany)
- DIGITALEUROPE (European Union)
- Digital Poland (Poland)
- ElektronikBranschen (Sweden)
- Elektriikka- ja kodinkonekaupan yhdistys ETKO ry (Finland)
- FiCom ry (Finland)
- INFOBALT (Lithuania)
- ITL Estonia (Estonia)
- IVSZ - Hungarian Association of Digital Companies (Hungary)
- NLdigital (Netherlands)
- Numeum (France)
- PIIT – Polska Izba Informatyki i Telekomunikacji (Poland)
- SAPIE – Slovak Alliance for Innovation Economy (Slovakia)
- SECIMAVI (France)
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- STOBi (Netherlands)
- techUK (United Kingdom)
- WKÖ Bundesgremium Maschinen- und Technologiehandel (Austria)
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- ZVEI – Verband der Elektro- und Digitalindustrie (Germany)

Companies

- Acer Computer GmbH
- Amazon
- Brother International GmbH
- Canon Europe Limited
- Dell Technologies
- Google
- HP Inc
- Intel
- Lenovo (Deutschland) GmbH
- Lexmark International Technology S.à.r.l.
- Western Digital®
- Xiaomi

Since improving the EU's copyright framework is on your current agenda and you, as MEP, have previously highlighted the need for the system to be revised, we kindly ask you, Ms. Executive Vice-President, to put this issue on your agenda and to advocate for reform of the system.

We are available to discuss the issue with you or your officials at any time.

Yours sincerely,



Elektroniikka- ja
kodinkonekaupan
yhdistys ETKO ry



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