

Ref.: BEUC-X-2018-064/UPA/cs

02 July 2018

**Subject: Copyright in the Digital Single Market – The JURI report does not protect the interests of European consumers**

Dear Mr Verhofstadt,

On 5 July, you will be called to vote on the European Parliament's mandate regarding the **Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market**. The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) asks you to **reject the negotiation mandate adopted in the Legal Affairs Committee (JURI) and to let the plenary amend the report**.

One of the most important added values of the Internet is that it allows consumers to be creative and freely exercise their freedom of expression. For example, consumers like to remix music, create videos with songs in the background and share all of this with their friends and families on social media.

Unfortunately, **the JURI report limits consumers' freedom of expression and imposes strict restrictions on their ability to create and share content online**. As it stands, the JURI report will force online platforms to automatically prevent many of these daily and legitimate creations by consumers from being uploaded and creates an unacceptable degree of legal uncertainty for European consumers.

In contrast to the JURI report, the opinions of **IMCO** (as an associated committee on Article 13) and **LIBE create a very balanced copyright legal framework** where consumers' creativity is fostered, and the respect of fundamental rights is ensured while helping right holders to be remunerated fairly. This should be the final position of the European Parliament as it enters negotiations with Council.

For these reasons, **we urge your political group to reject JURI's mandate and reopen the report for amendments** so that consumers can be adequately protected. The copyright reform must deliver benefits not only to creators and rights holders but also to consumers who drive the growth of the cultural sector in Europe.

For more information about our position on this important file for European consumers, please see our [factsheet](#) and [position paper](#).

We remain at your disposal for any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,

Ursula Pachl  
Deputy Director General