



Bratislava, Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, June 14th 2018

## **Position of digital industry of V4 Group Member States on the Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market**

With regard to the vote on the proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market, planned to be taken on June 21st by European Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), as representatives of digital and advanced technologies industries from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary – States associated in a strong V4 Group – we wish to appeal to Representatives of the European Parliament from our Countries for the rejection of some of the proposed regulations, which in our opinion are harmful for the digital market. Innovation and development of digital services are amongst our governments' priorities, and thus we voice our concern about proposed regulations hurting the digital economy of V4 Group's region the most. Negative consequences of implementing said regulations of the Directive will be experienced not just by entrepreneurs, but also by consumers, whose access to content available online is about to be restricted by European Union's institutions.

We appeal to Members of the European Parliament from our countries to oppose solutions currently envisioned in article 11 of the Directive's draft, which aim to introduce an additional neighboring right for press publishers and licensing of content by the so-called „link tax”. Such a solution will negatively affect medium and small publishers and most importantly, it will leave consumers themselves with greatly limited access to information and knowledge online.

We call urgently upon MEPs from our countries to vote against article 13 of the Directive's project which institutes a legal liability of providers of online services for content uploaded by their users and a duty to filter said content. Citizens of V4 Group States use services allowing to create and

share content online, demonstrating great affinity for such services. By introducing article 13, you will cause those services to be significantly less friendly towards users and in consequence – less available for them. Said regulation will profoundly hinder the development of innovative online enterprises.

We also appeal for complementing article 3 regarding text and data mining (TDM) with an exception for commercial use of data analysis which would apply to all entities exploring the data to which they have legal access in order to conduct both commercial and noncommercial research. Without such clarification Europe will lose its competitiveness in the most important areas of research, such as AI and Big Data, which are now becoming indispensable pillars of innovative products.

Decisions you are about to make in regard to the project of Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market will bear far reaching consequences for digital economy of our countries. As entrepreneurs, we ask you to vote while keeping in mind the interest of countries of our common region.

*Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic*

*ASE - Consumer Electronics Association of the Czech Republic*

*IT Association of Slovakia*

*IVSZ – ICT Association of Hungary*

*SAPIE – The Slovak Alliance For Innovation Economy*

*ZIPSEE Digital Poland*