EU Producers, Broadcasters, and Distributors/Publishers of Film and Audiovisual Content Regret Harmful Deal on the EU Copyright Directive

The EU institutions have agreed a controversial political deal on the Copyright in the DSM Directive. This agreement represents a bad compromise which is harmful to Europe’s economic and cultural interests. The agreed text creates a legislative framework that will have a negative impact on investment in the European film and audiovisual sectors. It absolves online content sharing services from liability beyond current legislation and case law, and establishes new unreasonable burdens on right holders.

We therefore call on the Member States and the European Parliament to reconsider as the political deal creates new imbalances between stakeholders in clear contradiction with the stated policy goals of the proposed legislation. At a time when leaders agree more needs to be done to deliver a responsible online space and to promote growth and jobs in the European economy, this Directive reduces protections and weakens the ability of European right holders to create, produce and distribute creative content and thus compete in their very own market. European consumers will be the losers in the long run.

This surely cannot be the intended outcome.