Audiovisual sector statement on the
European Commission’s Digital Single Market Strategy

"We stand ready to contribute further to the overarching “growth and jobs agenda” set out by the European Commission a year ago. Yet, we are extremely concerned that some of the policy options envisaged by the European Commission could negatively impact the sustainability of the film and audiovisual sector, and severely decrease the incentives for investing in the production, distribution and dissemination of high quality films and audiovisual works across Europe. We are also troubled by the lack of evidence put forward by the Commission to demonstrate that the proposed changes will add quality jobs and economic growth in Europe. To the contrary, we are concerned these changes would have the opposite effect."

"We appreciate that the Commission has acknowledged in part the concerns of the audiovisual sector by stating that it intends to respect “the value of rights in the audiovisual sector”. Delivering on that promise will require significant changes in the Commission’s approach. In particular, mandating any form of cross-border access by EU law in the audiovisual sector would not create or
increase value but more likely lead to its transfer to the benefit of a few big global Internet platforms, which will ultimately reducing consumer choice and cultural diversity."

"We believe that to achieve the objectives of the Digital Single Market, we must continue to build on the strength of copyright and more specifically the notions of territoriality and exclusivity which are fundamental elements that incentivise investments, ensure high-quality production and distribution and enable creative and financial risk-taking."

"We therefore urge the European Commission to take due account of the specificities of our sectors and maintain a legal framework under which we can continue to be a driver for innovation, growth, quality jobs and cultural diversity across Europe."

******

List of signatories

ACT - Association of Commercial Televisions in Europe, Ross Biggam, Director General – rb@acte.be – and Emilie Anthonis, EU Affairs Advisor – ea@acte.be

CEPI - European Coordination of Independent Producers, Elena Lai, Secretary General - Cepi@europe-analytica.com

FIAD - International Federation of Film Distributors Associations, Jelmer Hofkamp, jelmer.hofkamp@fiad.eu

IFTA - Independent Film & Television Alliance, Jean Prewitt, CEO – jprewitt@ifta-online.org

MPA - Motion Picture Association, Stanford McCoy, President and Managing Director MPA EMEA - Stan_McCoy@mpaa.org – and Marc du Moulin, EU Affairs Director Marc_Dumoulin@mpaa.org

UNIC - International Federation of Cinemas, Jan Runge, CEO – jrunge@unic-cinemas.org

BUNDESLIGA - Stefan Brost, Head of EU Office - stefan.brost@dfb-dfl.de

EUROCINEMA - Association de Producteurs de Cinéma et de Télévision, Yvon Thiec, General Delegate - Yvon.Thiec@eurocinema.eu

FIAPF - International Federation of Film Producers Associations, Benoît Ginisty, Director General - B.Ginisty@fiapf.org

IVF - International Video Federation - Publishers of Audiovisual Content on Digital Media and Online, Charlotte Lund Thomsen, Legal Counsel – clthomsen@ivf-video.org

PREMIER LEAGUE - Mathieu Moreuil, Head Of European Public Policy - mmoreuil@premierleague.com