

European Parliament's vote on the Copyright Directive:

"Where there is no law, there is no freedom"¹.

Make the right choice for Europe.

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

You will receive this letter only once, but I very much hope that hearing the facts once from us and from an organisation representing over 50,000 professional composers and songwriters in 27 European countries will be more powerful than a million automated messages spreading disinformation.

You have probably already received thousands of these automatically generated messages saying that the Copyright Directive will "break the Internet" or "lead to censorship". It is simply a lie that serves the interests of a few multinational tech companies that fiercely fight any regulation that could hurt their business models. Answer those emails and you will see most of them are pure spam generated by computers.

Those tech companies have immense resources, in large part because they don't pay fair taxes across Europe. Those resources allow them to finance foundations, coalitions, websites and massive mailing lists. They have no problems when it comes to filtering the Internet in countries that are notoriously known for censorship. That does not prevent them to shamelessly use the argument of freedom of expression with one single goal in mind: avoiding regulation at all cost.

This Directive is NOT about censoring the Internet: the position of the Legal Affairs committee actually promotes a fair remuneration for creators online. As authors, freedom of expression is at the very basis of our work, it is in our DNA: we would not support any law that would limit it in any way. Ultimately, all citizens have an interest in promoting authors' rights so that they can create, which eventually benefits the whole society. We want consumers to access and enjoy their works as much as possible. We simply believe that we should get a fair share of the value created by our works.

This is not only about us but about the future of Europe's culture. The EU can now send a strong signal to future generations who want to write, compose, create and be fairly remunerated for their creations. They should not be afraid to do so - everyone can become an author.

This Directive also aims at setting some reasonable and much needed limits to the abuses of the Internet "as we now know it" – an Internet now dominated by a few global tech platforms, very far from the spirit of its pioneers. Those "technopolies" have been allowed to become as powerful as they are today because lawmakers have too often been afraid to set reasonable limits to their immense powers. The European Parliament had the courage to do so already once: to protect the privacy of its citizens. It will have another opportunity to show its determination to make platforms accountable for their actions very soon.

"Where there is no law, there is no freedom", said John Locke. This is truer than ever. Make the right choice.

Sincerely yours,

¹ John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (1689)

Benny Andersson, Swedish musician and composer.

Alexandre Desplat, French film music composer, orchestrator and conductor.

Alberto Iglesias, Spanish film music composer.

Alfons Karabuda, Swedish composer, President of the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance.

Phil Manzanera, British composer and guitarist.

Klaus Meine, German singer and songwriter.

Ennio Morricone, Italian composer, orchestrator and conductor.

Björn Ulvaeus, Swedish songwriter and producer.

Benny Andersson is a Swedish musician, composer, member of the Swedish music group ABBA. With them, and more recently with the Benny Anderssons Orkester, he became one of the most successful Swedish composers and artists. ABBA's two greatest hits collections were hugely successful with singles such as *Dancing Queen* and *Take a Chance on Me*.

Alexandre Desplat is a leading, internationally acclaimed composer, orchestrator and conductor. He won two Academy Awards for his musical scores in *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *The Shape of Water*. He also received seven additional Academy Award nominations, eight César nominations, seven BAFTA nominations, seven Golden Globe Award nominations and six Grammy nominations.

Alberto Iglesias is a Spanish composer, who wrote the music of most Pedro Almodovar's films such as *All About My Mother*, *Talk to Her*, and *Volver*. He won numerous International, European and Spanish awards and has been nominated for an Academy Award for his work in the films *The Constant Gardener*, *The Kite Runner* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*.

Alfons Karabuda is a Swedish composer of music for television, radio, stage and screen (BBC, SVT, DR, SR, Zentropa among others). He is President of ECSA (European Composer and Songwriter Alliance) which represents over 50,000 professional composers and songwriters in 27 European countries.

Phil Manzanera is one of the UK's best-known musicians since the early '70's as the lead guitarist with the seminal band, Roxy Music. He is widely acknowledged as one of the world's leading guitarists and as a prominent performer and record producer.

Klaus Meine is the German lead vocalist as well as lyricist and songwriter of the hard rock band Scorpions. Best known for hits like *Wind of Change*, *Rock you like a Hurricane*, *Still loving you* and *Send me an Angel*, the Scorpions received numerous prizes like the *ECHO*, *Rock Legend Award* as well as a star on the *Hollywood Walk of Fame*.

Ennio Morricone is an Italian composer, orchestrator, conductor, who is considered as one of the world's greatest film composers of all time. He has composed over 500 scores for cinema and television, including over 70 award-winning films, such as *Once Upon a Time in America*, *A Fistful of Dollars*, *Cinema Paradiso* and *The Hateful Eight*.

Björn Ulvaeus is a Swedish songwriter, producer, member of the Swedish music group ABBA. As co-composer of the musicals *Chess*, *Kristina från Duvemåla*, and *Mamma Mia!*, he became one of the most popular Swedish artists.