

Question for written answer E-012119/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Copyright and cross-border access to digital content

Over half of Europeans currently benefit from internet-based cultural sources, and that proportion is constantly increasing. Consumers increasingly display digital content on mobile devices and would like to have access to such irrespective of the location of the source or of where they themselves are situated.

Unfortunately, obstacles to cross-border access to copyright content and the possibility of transferring such are common, in particular in the case of audiovisual content. Consumers do not always want to use services purchased in their country outside the borders of that country. Access to copyright content from another Member State is also sometimes a problem, as consumers are then informed that this content is unavailable or cannot be accessed from their own country.

These problems are due both to the territoriality principle of copyright and difficulties associated with the clearing of rights, and to contractual restrictions between rights holders and distributors, or restrictions resulting from business decisions taken by distributors.

I would like to ask the Commission what legislative changes, in the context of the Single Digital Market, it is proposing to enable cross-border access to digital content whilst ensuring adequate protection of the legitimate interests of consumers and creators alike?