

PODCAST cross-border portability of online content

Voice 1: Brian

Voice 2: Sarah

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VOICE 1

You're listening to the European Parliamentary Research Service podcast on the cross-border portability of online services.

VOICE 2

If the Parliament's plenary approves the new rules on cross-border portability of online content, Europeans travelling within the EU will no longer be cut off from online services such as films, music, e-books or games they have paid for back home! We'll be right back...

END OF JINGLE

VOICE 1

Ever spent a night abroad in your hotel room, planning to watch a Netflix movie or play your favourite songs on Spotify, and suddenly got the message: content not available... ?

VOICE 2

Well, that's because generally you cannot access content services you have subscribed to when you are outside your country of residence.

VOICE 1

But this could soon be over! if the Parliament's plenary endorses the new rules on cross-border portability of online services...

VOICE 2

The new rules were proposed by the Commission in 2015 as part of its efforts to remove barriers to the development of a truly internal market for digital content and services.

VOICE 1

The compromise text reached by Parliament, Commission and Council has already been approved by the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee. So, what are the main points?

VOICE 2

Well, the new measures will ensure that EU citizens are able to access content they have paid for or subscribed to in their country of residence when they are outside that country on holiday, business trips or limited student stays in another Member State.

VOICE 1

The new regulation will apply to online content services which are provided against payment of money. Free to air services, such as public broadcasters, will also be able to benefit from the regulation provided that they verify the country of residence of their subscribers.

VOICE 2

To avoid abuse, service providers will verify the subscribers' country of residence. The Parliament has added some safeguards to ensure that these verifications are carried out in compliance with the EU privacy and data protection rules.

VOICE 1

So, if everything goes according to plan and the Parliament's May plenary approves the new rules next week, they could apply from the first semester of 2018!

VOICE 2

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