DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on an intellectual property plan to support the EU’s recovery and resilience (2021/2007(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Andrey Slabakov
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recognises the paramount importance of ‘intangible assets’ and intellectual property (IP)-intensive industries in the economic recovery and resilience of the EU in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic; underlines the need to protect these by law, allowing creators to benefit from their intellectual property rights (IPRs);

2. Asks the Member States to ensure that companies from the cultural and creative sectors, especially content producers, are encouraged to acquire IPRs on their creations and improve their position in competitive markets; outlines that companies who own IPRs have 20 % higher revenue, improving their ability to access previously untapped highly competitive markets¹;

3. Highlights the challenges that SMEs face in acquiring IPRs and notes with concern the fragmentation of the European IP system, in particular the need for parallel litigations in multiple EU countries; calls for the process to become more streamlined and straightforward and for SMEs to be equipped with accurate information to facilitate the IPR acquisition process and to be informed of the benefits of IPRs for their commercial competitiveness;

4. Welcomes the Commission’s commitment to support the full and timely transposition of the two copyright framework directives; notes that the Commission is putting special emphasis on the implementation of Article 17 of the Copyright Directive² and strongly supports its plans for issuing implementation guidelines for Member States; urges Member States to quickly and completely transpose the directives into their national legislation;

5. Highlights the ongoing problems faced by creators, artists and cultural sector workers with regard to copyright and related rights; notes with great concern that they continue to be pressured into unfavourable contracts, giving up the rights to their intellectual property without receiving just remuneration for their creative work; stresses that Member States must ensure that sufficient protection is put in place to prevent loss of IPRs by authors and cultural sector workers across the EU.
