

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0663/07
by Reino Paasilinna (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Compensation for private copying: levies applied to recording and storage media

The Commission has already been working for several years to reform the rules governing compensation for private copying to recording and storage media.

The new recommendations are necessary if only because the development and convergence that have occurred in the new media sector have changed the position regarding copyright matters and compensation.

The compensation was included in the Commission's 2006 work programme. The Commissioner responsible, Charlie McCreevy, was due to unveil the Commission recommendation on 20 December 2006. Instead of that, however, the Commission announced that it needed more time to prepare the ground, having presumably come under pressure from various lobby groups and Member States.

Why has the Commission not carried forward the unfinished business of compensation into its work programme for 2007? How does it intend to move ahead with the compensation reform? How much time for reflection does it think it will need before issuing the new recommendation?