Question for written answer E-005668/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Rikke Karlsson (ECR)

Subject: Multiterritory licences

There is currently talk of amending the EU's copyright regime so as to make it easier to issue multiterritory licences and to make it easier for consumers to have cross-border access to creative content in the EU.

However, measures such as a sale and licensing obligation, prohibiting the subdivision of licences and geoblocking on the Internet may have adverse and unforeseen consequences.

Such prohibitions may make it difficult, for instance, for national public-service television broadcasters and heritage institutions to obtain licences to distribute content on the Internet if they can no longer restrict use to their customary operating domains, but, rather, have to obtain clearance and pay for cross-Europe coverage.

As a result, the market may be increasingly cornered by multinationals, which already operate internationally, and there is a risk that a diverse domestic market will be lost.

How does the Commission intend to avoid the above adverse consequences of a future reform of EU copyright rules?

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