

**Question for written answer E-004379/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hannu Takkula (ALDE)

Subject: Article 12 and its impact on copyright

As technology continues to develop, literature is increasingly being published on the Internet, a place where copyright is more difficult to supervise. That is why the law should seek to be as clear as possible in order to support authors and ensure that they are rewarded for their works. In its proposal concerning the Digital Single Market the Commission has put forward the idea (in Article 12) that a publisher should be entitled to claim compensation (for the uses made of an author's work) once the author had transferred or licensed a right to that publisher.

This proposal has been drawn up without the necessary impact assessment, and the new article in question would contravene the principle that an author assigns a right in so far as this is expressly provided for in the Copyright Treaty. As it stands, the proposed article is unclearly worded and might create legal uncertainty for authors, who are otherwise placed at a disadvantage when dealing with their publisher.

Why is this article being put forward? Has any assessment been made to determine how authors might be affected when it comes to being properly rewarded for their work?