

EN  
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Answer given by Mr Breton  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(1.12.2021)

Companies providing audiovisual services are free to provide their services in certain Member States only, and not in others. The Geo-blocking Regulation<sup>1</sup> does not apply to the access to such services from other Member States. Therefore, online audiovisual service providers like the Walt Disney Company are currently not required to grant cross border access to their online services, subject to their compliance with EU competition law rules.

Based on the findings of the first review of the Geo-blocking Regulation<sup>2</sup>, the Commission noted in the Media and Audiovisual Action Plan<sup>3</sup> that there are important differences among the audiovisual catalogues across Member States, and that EU films are available online in a limited number of countries. In order to address this issue, the Commission has launched a dialogue with the audiovisual industry in order to agree on concrete steps to improve the access to and availability of audiovisual content across the EU.

The dialogue will focus on defining targets to increase the circulation of audiovisual works across the EU and possible ways to achieve them. The Commission will take stock of the progress achieved through the dialogue and will decide on its follow-up on that basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2018 on addressing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market and amending Regulations (EC) No 2006/2004 and (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive 2009/22/EC, OJ L 60I, 2.3.2018, p. 1. See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R0302>

<sup>2</sup> COM(2020) 766 final - 'Report on the first short-term review of the Geo-blocking Regulation'.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2020) 784 final - Communication 'Europe's Media in the Digital Decade: An Action Plan to Support Recovery and Transformation'.