**Gerard Batten (ENF).** – Madam President, no one is against fair copyright and protecting the legitimate rights of authors, but this directive is about promoting the interests of multinational corporations and maximising their profits. It is also about controlling and shutting down free speech and dissent not approved of by the media and political establishments. Dissenting voices are already being de‑platformed and de‑monetised and this will institutionalise censorship.

UKIP MEPs and others forced a vote on this directive using the Rules of Procedure, otherwise it would have gone through on the nod last year. Members should take note that the European elections will follow shortly. Voters should take note of which MEPs and which parties voted for this directive, and they should vote against them on 23 May. The European Union and the political and media establishments want to suppress free speech and dissent. If MEPs vote for this directive, then they deserve to lose their seats.