

ACT submission to geo-blocking consultation

Who we are

The Association of Commercial Television in Europe represents the interests of leading commercial broadcasters in 37 European countries. The ACT member companies finance, produce, promote and distribute content and services benefiting millions of Europeans across all platforms. At ACT we believe that the healthy and sustainable commercial broadcasting sector has an important role to play in the European economy, society and culture.

Commercial television broadcasters are indeed a key contributor to the development of a high-quality and innovative digital platform and economy, contributing to the benefit for all European citizens. Europe's commercial television sector entertains and informs over 500 million citizens, and no other media has reached this number so far.

Our businesses were early developers and adopters of digital technology and we help power the European digital economy. Central to the lives of Europe's citizens, our TV channels reach over 200 million European households in 28 EU member states and beyond. More specifically, our online TV services are available in over 150 million European homes connected to the internet, and are central to Europe's broadband story. Europe's commercial TV's path to digitalization already started 10 years ago, and we are now distributing TV according to our customers' preferences, whether that is digital terrestrial, digital satellite, cable or online. Moreover, we operate diverse digital business models that deliver unparalleled customer choice, varying from free-to-air advertising models to subscription on demand.

Out of scope of the consultation

The background document to the questionnaire mentions the following regarding the scope of the consultation:

"The practices covered in this questionnaire refer only to geo-blocking or other restrictions in so far as they do NOT those related to copyright and licensing practices (such as sport events), which will be addressed by the Commission in separate initiatives."

Given that our member companies distribute copyright-related material, we take good note of the fact that we are out of the scope of this consultation and we welcome the Commission's differentiated approach.
