

Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy

A consultative Green Paper about future copyright policy in the knowledge economy has been published by the Commission.

The aim of the consultation process is to have a structured debate on the long-term future of copyright policy in the knowledge-intensive areas.

In its Single Market Review package published last November, the Commission highlighted the need to promote free movement of knowledge and innovation as the 'Fifth freedom' in the Single Market.

The Green Paper which it has drawn up focuses on how research, science and educational materials are disseminated to the public and whether knowledge is circulating freely in the internal market.

The consultation document also looks at the issue of whether the current copyright framework is sufficiently robust to protect knowledge products and whether authors and publishers are sufficiently encouraged to create and disseminate electronic versions of these products.

The consultation document focuses on topics that appear relevant for the development of a modern economy, driven by the rapid dissemination of knowledge and information.

In particular, the Green Paper is an attempt to structure the copyright debate as it relates to scientific publishing, the digital preservation of Europe's cultural heritage, orphan works, consumer access to protected works and the special

needs for the disabled to participate in the information society.

Future challenges

The Green Paper points to future challenges in the fields of scientific and scholarly publishing, search engines and special derogations for libraries, researchers and disabled people.

The Green paper focuses not only on the dissemination of knowledge for research, science and education but also on the current legal framework in the area of copyright and the possibilities it can currently offer to a variety of users (social institutions, museums, search engines, disabled people, teaching establishments).

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http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/index_en.htm