



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 18.05.2017  
C(2017) 3250 final*

*Ms Regina BASTOS  
Chair of the European Affairs  
Committee  
Assembleia da República  
Palácio de S. Bento  
P – 1249-068 LISBON*

*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES  
President of the  
of the Assembleia da República  
Palácio de S. Bento  
P – 1249-068 LISBON*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on copyright in the Digital Single Market {COM(2016) 593 final}, the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules on the exercise of copyright and related rights applicable to certain online transmissions of broadcasting organisations and retransmissions of television and radio programmes {COM(2016) 594 final}, and the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain permitted uses of works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefits of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled and amending Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society {COM(2016) 596 final}.*

*Through these proposals, the Commission is delivering on the Digital Single Market Strategy<sup>1</sup> objective "to reduce differences between national copyright regimes and allow for wider online access to works by users across the EU" and on the action plan for the modernisation of EU copyright rules outlined in the Communication 'Towards a modern, more European copyright framework'<sup>2</sup> of December 2015.*

*The proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market aims at adapting certain key exceptions to copyright to the digital and cross-border environment; improving licensing practices and ensuring wider access to content; and achieving a well-functioning marketplace for copyright.*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2015) 192 final.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2015) 626 final.

*The objective of the proposed Regulation is to facilitate the clearance of rights for cross-border online transmissions of television and radio programmes and retransmissions over closed networks, therefore fostering the cross-border distribution of television and radio programmes.*

*With the proposal for a Directive on certain permitted uses of works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefits of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, the Commission is implementing the Marrakesh Treaty into EU law through a new exception.*

*The Commission welcomes the comments the Assembleia da República has provided in its Opinion. The Commission believes that the above-mentioned proposals provide for balanced and proportionate rules for all market players. The proposed new rules would contribute to facilitate access to copyright-protected content while maintaining incentives to create and invest in creative content.*

*The proposals presented by the Commission are currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue with the Assembleia da República in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Andrus Ansip  
Vice-President*