

5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**RE: Statement from the Screen Composers Guild of Ireland regarding the proposed EU Copyright Directive.**

**Dear MEP**

We are writing to you again ahead of the plenary session for the proposed copyright directive on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for engaging with us to date on this issue and ask you once again to consider our comments and concerns.

We are asking that you support your local electorate of composers, authors and creators who want to see an internet that upholds the ideals of copyright and allows artists to earn fairly from their work and continue to create new work. We have seen not only a rapid erosion in our ability to make a living from our work but also to the perception of value for creative and cultural works and a malign interruption between artist and audience. We see a gross ambivalence to the intentions of protection that copyright law is based upon and we need your support to right this as we do not believe the marketplace can self-correct. We are asking you to support the continued growth of our nations wonderful artistic heritage that has amassed a national wealth of cultural works which have touched so many worldwide.

We believe there to be an on-going orchestrated campaign of misinformation regarding the potential outcome of this bill. This concerns us deeply and it underlines the determination of some to maintain the status quo. Claims that the copyright directive will “break the internet” and “lead to censorship” are aimed at purposely trying to create confusion and obscure the true intentions of the need for this intervention. We as creators hold freedom of expression at the very foundation of who we are and what we represent and have through history been on the frontline in any fight against censorship. We would not seek your support for this directive if we believed that these principles are genuinely at stake.

We again invite you to meet with us to hear first-hand our experiences and carry them with you to Europe. This proposal provides a real opportunity to address the current imbalance and develop a safe and fair online market place for creators, their audiences and service providers, and will protect our heritage as cultural creators for the next generations.

We thank you for your time. Your vote and voice is most important to us and to the sustainability of European culture.

Yours sincerely,

Screen Composers Guild of Ireland CLG.