

PRESS RELEASE : Review of the EU copyright rules could liberate open innovation

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The current EU copyright rules are based on a [Directive from 2001](#) implementing the WIPO Copyright Treaty of 1996. Since that time, technology has profoundly and irrevocably remodeled the way that content is created and consumed, and our legal system is increasingly struggling to achieve its stated objective of enabling open innovation. Recognising the need for change, the Commission decided to open a [public consultation](#) in December 2013, asking a very broad set of questions on how to patch the current system.

In our response to the [consultation](#) we are submitting today, we address some of the issues that we believe to be key to open innovation in the field of ICT :

Linking and browsing constitute fundamental functions of the Open Internet. We advise against introducing further restrictions on a practice that has become essential to the way we communicate and share information online.

Text and data mining frequently faces artificial restrictions in the form of separate licenses which burdens and limits the enormous potential of techniques that will be key contributors to innovation and growth in Europe in the coming years. We recommend the introduction of a clearer copyright exception.

Private copying and reprography are increasingly becoming unadapted to an economy of streaming and digital contents. We believe that levies should not be applied to cloud services.

Software interoperability should not be restricted in any way by copyright rules. In particular, the possibility for software to circumvent DRMs for interoperability purposes should be enshrined by law.

« Open innovation only works if technology and law go hand in hand. It is dire time to review the EU copyright rules to bring them up to speed with the new digital age », said Graham Taylor, CEO of OpenForum Europe, adding « we hope that the Commission will propose an ambitious reform ».

The European Commission has announced plans to publish a White Paper by this summer, identifying areas for action.

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