



For immediate release

The DSA should upgrade the responsibility of online platforms, not weaken it, says Creativity Works!

Brussels, 15th December 2020 - Creativity Works!, a leading European coalition of the creative and cultural industries, sees the Digital Services Act (DSA) as a unique opportunity to ensure a safe, trustworthy and respectful online environment for consumers and businesses alike.

“All online players need to act responsibly for the online ecosystem to flourish and benefit everyone - society, consumers and businesses. The DSA is a unique opportunity to translate the declaration “What is illegal offline is also illegal online” into concrete actions”, said Laura Houlgatte, Chair of Creativity Works!.

Those who claim that the relaxation of existing rules or that some special accommodation with those rules is needed are the ones who should be held accountable for illegal content. Digital services do not require any incentivisation to act against such content. They just need clear obligations to protect users, citizens, consumers and businesses from illegal activities.

Laura Houlgatte, Chair of Creativity Works!, added: *“We are not asking for the impossible – the DSA should remind everyone of respectful business practices. Online intermediaries need to know who is operating on their sites (i.e. their business customers); illegal content has to be removed swiftly and effectively; and platforms need to put in place and enforce policies for repeat offenders”.*

The Digital Services Act will benefit citizens if:

- The liability provisions of the E-Commerce directive are strengthened, not weakened;
- The declaration “What is illegal offline is also illegal online” is translated into concrete actions;
- The scope of “Know Your Business Customer” obligations is broad enough to protect all businesses and consumers from illegal conduct online.

A robust co-regulatory framework, backed by a “co-regulatory backstop”, is also needed to tackle disinformation as foreseen by the European Democracy Action Plan adopted on 3rd December.

We call on the European Parliament and the Council to bear these key objectives in mind when reviewing the DSA proposal and look forward to working with the European institutions towards achieving these objectives.

ENDS

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Note to the editors

About Creativity Works!

As a leading European coalition of the cultural and creative sectors, our diverse membership includes video games developers and publishers, broadcasters, writers and screenwriters, book publishers and retailers, cinema operators, sports organisers, picture agencies, music and films/TV producers, publishers and distributors:

- Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT);
- Center of the Picture Industry (CEPIC);
- The European Audiovisual Production Association (CEPI);
- European and International Booksellers' Federation (EIBF);
- European Writers' Council (EWC);
- Federation of European Publishers (FEP);
- International Federation of Film Distributors' Associations (FIAD) ;
- International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF);
- Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE);
- International Confederation of Music Publishers (ICMP);
- Independent Music Companies Association (IMPALA);
- Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE);
- International Video Federation (IVF);
- International Union of Cinemas (UNIC);
- La Liga;
- La Ligue Française de Football;
- MEDIAPRO;
- Motion Picture Association (MPA);
- The Premier League;
- VAUNET Verband Privater Medien e.V.

Find out more about the coalition at www.creativityworks.eu

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