

European Broadcasters common position paper on the Draft WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty

European broadcasters, through the Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe (ACT), the Association of European Radios (AER) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which represent both commercial and public service broadcasters (radio and television) as well as video-on-services operators, call the Member States of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to convene a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty.

The piracy of broadcast signals has undeniably become a global issue. The Internet enables unauthorised use and distribution of broadcasters' signals to transcend national borders—and even continents—causing substantial harm to broadcasting organisations. This widespread piracy severely diminishes the commercial value and monetisation of live and premium content. Since such content is central to broadcasters' programming, they must respond swiftly and effectively to combat piracy on a global scale.

Broadcasters increasingly need effective legal protection to cover all means of distribution. More and more broadcasting organisations distribute their signals through digital means. Online transmissions have become an essential part of broadcasting operations.

In light of this situation, the Draft WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty (SCCR/46/3) should include all forms of transmissions. This is essential if the WIPO Member States want to adopt an effective anti-piracy instrument that protects the programme-carrying signals on a global scale.

For this reason, the EBU, ACT, and AER urge the WIPO Member States to adopt a future-proof Treaty that protects all forms of transmissions; and call upon the WIPO Member States to recommend the WIPO General Assembly to convene a Diplomatic Conference for its adoption.

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