

# G E S A C

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## ***GESAC PRESS RELEASE***

### ***ON THE DIRECTIVE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY***

*Brussels, 15 February 2001* – On 14 February the European Parliament adopted by a large majority positive amendments to the Copyright Directive which demonstrate in particular its awareness of the acute problem of private copying in the digital era and of the importance for authors to have their name mentioned when their works are used. By an equally large majority the Parliament luckily rejected the very negative amendments tabled at the last minute, in particular the amendment providing for a new, unacceptable and unjustifiable exception to the use of archives by broadcasters, and the amendments aimed at restricting arbitrarily the freedom of Member States to introduce remuneration systems.

GESAC trusts that the Council will follow the Parliament and accept the proposed amendments.

European authors will then have to take steps to ensure that the incorporation of the Community directive into each State's legislation does not undermine the level of protection acquired.

The shortcomings in the common Council position and the imbalances created by the extravagant list of exceptions, denounced long ago by European authors, have not unfortunately been redressed. The very broad wording of certain exceptions, the extremely ambiguous definition of "fair compensation" and the wide margin of manoeuvre left to Member States for the legal protection of technological measures has left authors with a strong feeling of legal insecurity. Moreover it is regrettable that the text allows Member States the option of not providing for remuneration in exchange for important exceptions likely to undermine the interests of authors, and detrimental to an adequate level of protection harmonised on a Community scale.

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