



PRESS RELEASE

**Commission Communication on a
Single Market for Intellectual Property Rights**

GESAC welcomes the adoption of this document, which confirms the Commission's intention to ensure a joined-up approach in its intellectual property initiatives

Brussels, 24 May 2011.- The document focuses on the fight against unauthorised online uses, which are financially damaging to authors and the main obstacle to the development of legal online content services. GESAC believes that ISPs have a key role to play in halting copyright infringements and discouraging consumers from breaking the rules.

Where music copyright is concerned, GESAC wants future EU legislation on collective rights management to create a favourable legal framework for the re-aggregation of repertoires. The point is to make clearance of rights for the European and world repertoire easier while at the same time safeguarding cultural diversity and the value of works. GESAC General Secretary Véronique Desbrosses argues that *“authors’ societies are a natural link between authors and users and EU legislation has to rely on them.”*

Other initiatives included in the Communication are the proposed appointment of a mediator for private copying issues. GESAC must stress the importance of private copying remuneration for authors and its role in ensuring economic balance within the cultural sector. Private copying remuneration schemes ensure balance between authors’ interests and that of consumers who are thereby enabled to make copies of copyright-protected works. This option would not be available where there was a DRM-enforced exercise of the exclusive rights. GESAC is open to negotiated solutions aimed at improving the functioning of the different national private copying remuneration schemes in the Internal Market. The major work done in the Commission-sponsored dialogue between rights holders and the consumer electronics industry in 2009 - unfortunately broken off by the industry - provides a solid basis for further exploration.

Note to journalists:

The European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers (GESAC) represents 33 of the main collective copyright management societies (authors' societies) in the European Union, Norway and Switzerland, that administer the rights and remuneration of almost 700,000 music publishers, authors composers and writers in many fields (music, audiovisual, literature, graphic and plastic arts)

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