



PRESS STATEMENT

Brussels, 6 May 2009

eYouGuide to Consumer Rights and the Commission's Digital Agenda

The European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers (GESAC) welcomes the European Commission's eYouGuide to Consumer Internet Rights which will increase awareness of European Internet users on their rights and obligations, and salutes that one of the topics of the guide is dedicated to copyright.

GESAC however is surprised and concerned by the Commission's announcement of a "Digital Agenda for Consumer Rights Tomorrow", in which several priority areas for possible EU action were identified, including "*paving the way for multi-territorial licensing regimes for online content*" and "*ending the current fragmentation of laws on private copying*".

Indeed, as regards multi-territorial licensing, as many as three Commission DGs have already been involved in this issue in last couple of years, often with contradictory approaches and lack of thorough analysis and of adequate consultation with interested parties. This resulted in an increase of legal uncertainty and complexity of the system. "*We hope that Commission will learn from past mistakes and will favour in the future a coherent, coordinated and transparent approach*", said GESAC's General Secretary, Véronique Desbrosses.

Concerning private copying, a Platform of Dialogue in which representatives of the consumer electronics industry, of rights holders and consumers discuss under the auspices of DG MARKET and DG EAC on ways to improve the current systems is already in place. It therefore comes as a surprise that two different DGs (DG INFSO and DG SANCO), which have occasionally attended the meetings of this Platform, now envisage a possible new initiative on the subject, increasing confusion and uncertainty.

The European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers (GESAC) links together 34 of the biggest collective management societies (authors' societies) in the European Union, Norway and Switzerland, who administer the royalties of almost 500 000 authors, composers and writers of a variety of sectors (music, audiovisual, literary, visual arts, etc.), music publishers and other rights holders.