



PRESS STATEMENT

Brussels, 14 September 2009

Communication from the EU Commission “Enhancing the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Internal Market”

GESAC welcomes the European Commission’s adoption of the Communication “Enhancing the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the internal market” on Friday 11 September.

Internet piracy is a major scourge for European authors who are getting almost no payment for the use of their works. Looking at figures of content downloads, it cannot be disputed that there is a huge demand for copyright protected content. However, only a very small portion of these downloads generate income for rights holders. This current “business model” which generates a huge amount of income for intermediaries, such as ISPs, does not remunerate the rights holders and is therefore not sustainable.

The working group of rights holders and Internet Service Providers recently set up by DG Markt to probe the scope for more co-operation in the fight against illegal up- and downloading is another step in the right direction. The General Secretary of GESAC, Véronique Desbrosses, said, “if solutions are to be found for a viable economic model for copyrighted content online where authors are adequately remunerated, it is vital that the European Commission put a strong and ambitious policy in place”.

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.

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