



David Chavern
President and CEO

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. Gunther Oettinger
Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Dear Commissioner Oettinger,

On behalf of the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), I write to express our support for publishers' copyright protection under European Union law, a right currently afforded to publishers in the United States. As the European Commission considers the inclusion of publishers in its legal framework as an eligible class for copyright protection, our experiences may provide useful insights in your consultation.

Under U.S. copyright law, a publisher is permitted to register and enforce its right to exclusively distribute and disseminate its compilation of commissioned works to the public. Significant investments are required to support investigative journalism, and the ability to reap financial benefits through license fees and other revenue sources is essential to a sustainable press and the free flow of information to the public.

As digital distribution grows, it becomes increasingly important to allow interested licensees to enter into licensing arrangements with publishers – as opposed to only the author – and also to allow the publisher to more efficiently enforce its rights against infringement. To compete effectively on all platforms, publishers must be able to receive a return on their investment, without which reporters and authors would not be adequately reimbursed for their work.

We also view this proposal as creating parity among creators in the EU. Film producers, broadcasters, and other classes of creators, currently receive copyright protection under EU law. We believe that such a right afforded to publishers would be on par with other valuable creative works that enrich society.

We support the addition of publishers to be added to the list of current right holders, which in our experience will allow them to continue to invest and innovate in the changing landscape of our global industry.

Sincerely,

David Chavern
President and CEO

Newspaper Association of America

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