

**MEPs approve copyright directive:
British Copyright Council statement**

26 March 2019

The copyright directive approved today by the European Parliament recognises an important international consensus on the challenge facing creativity in the digital age. Despite a determined opposition campaign, backed by tech giants preferring a status quo in which other people's work is too often commercialised without permission or proper payment, MEPs have categorically confirmed that content-sharing platforms are responsible for the copyright content from which they profit. Other provisions encourage further transparency and accountability towards European creators on whose work a vibrant internet depends.

The final directive is the result of years of debate and negotiation. It is not perfect, but it is important progress in modernising laws last made before online services such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter existed. However, many will now feel the need to be watchful that where certain protections have fallen short, they will not be used to undermine the original objective of supporting a fair and sustainable online future for creativity.

As the directive heads for formal endorsement by the European Council next month, the British Copyright Council — whose members represent the rights and interests of hundreds of thousands of authors, creators, performers, publishers and producers — is grateful to those who have supported a much-needed updating of EU law and will continue to champion measures, both on- and offline, that properly value copyright for the benefit of all.

ENDS