

Member of the European Parliament
Axel Voss
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz Altiero Spinelli 14E16
B-1047 Brussels

Open Letter to MEP Axel Voss in light of the Copyright Reform Directive

Dear Mr. Voss,

We ignore the hidden motivations (since we do not know of any public one) that drives you to apply such a great efforts to keep the copyright lobby happy enough.

Well, last weekend we knew about your new strategy to put the Internet under the copyright lobby control and to turn it de facto into a censorship machine.

Your new proposal to substitute the controversial Art.11 (link tax) & 13 (censorship machine) is simply and completely brilliant.

Mr. Voss, you decided that Internet providers become completely and absolutely liable for the content they publish, excluding any (and we repeat, any) kind of safeguard or exception to the internauts' right to information freedom as well as their right to access culture.

Obviously, under this approach, you can now remove from the Directive proposal the need for Internet providers to set up automatical mechanisms for the content filtering and censorship because it is already implied in the post of “ex-ante censors” that you assign to them.

If an Internet provider faces the threat of a complete and absolute liability for anything it could publish, it will (of course) filter everything and beyond he or she can “for good measure”. That is, the a posteriori censorship does not result worthwhile.

This is the tweet you published on August the 31st:

“The new proposal for #copyrightdirective does not foresee any measures/„upload filter“ Now I expect everyone who was against the previous proposal because of this to support the new proposal.”

But we do not see that “supposedly new” approach anywhere in the proposal.

Mr. Voss.....really do you really think that european citizens are we all mentally handicapped? Whom do you try to cheat? Citizens? Internet providers? Your colleague MEPs to see if they take the bait and support your proposals?

Mr. Voss...just a question.... ¿whom do you owe to, according to the EU mandate? To the copyright lobbies or to the citizens you were supposed to represent (those who pay your payroll) ? Whom do you prefer to defend? Whom are you defending? Money vs Right....Bravo!

Mr. Voss.... do you really think that Sir Tim Berners-Lee is an uneducated person who has no idea of the Internet?

Mr. Voss.... ¿do you really think that Vinton Cerf does not know what he's talking about when he raises the alarm of the enormous risks that poses the Article 13 and all of its variants (like the one you just made up)?

Mr. Voss....do you really think that all of the remaining experts accompanying these two Internet pioneers do not have any clue of what they say and that your tortious proposal will be able to convince them? Really?

Mr. Voss.....we would like to think that you know it, that you know this is not about four freaks who want to boycott the copyright industry (if this would be the case, it's amazing the efforts you are putting on it; all of you are doing the same for 20 years and you never succeed at it, despite the Internet)

This is all about that the Internet does not allow “experiments” to turn it into a censorship machine at the service of private interests, it haven't happened, nor it will. Do you know it, right?

Mr. Voss.....do you really want an European Internet identical to the Chinese Internet? Because you are really giving your best at it.

We are really afraid that you, Mr. Voss, will not answer this open letter since, if that was the case, you won't be promoting Directives more suitable for totalitarian regimes, and not of a free Europe open to the expressions, ideas, creativity and entrepreneurship of a modern society with no ex ante censorships.

Wouldn't it be good that you thought a bit about the proposal you lay out, especially in its practical application to technology reality nowadays?

Wouldn't it be good that you could explain to us, all european mentally handicapped Internet users, the uncountable benefits of the marvelous measures you try to impose us, and the reasons that drive you to that?

Kind regards
Asociación de Internautas

