

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

In the coming weeks, the European Parliament will vote on the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market. We would like to draw your attention to a topic that is crucial for all newspapers and magazines, small mid-size and big, but especially local and regional titles across the European Union: the proposed neighbouring right for press publishers, introduced in Article 11 of the Commission's proposal, as there have been misleading claims that the right would be harmful for smaller publishers.

With great concern, we see how our content is being used by large platforms such as search engines and news aggregators for their own business without any remuneration. These companies benefit from the attractive contents and products of newspapers and magazines and thus also achieve higher and higher profits at our expense. This represents an existential threat to the press sector.

The protection of content in the digital age is simply a necessity, especially for the future of the local and regional press which has currently no chance to fairly negotiate with internet giants. It is urgent to strengthen publishers' legal position against systematic and massive exploitation, so that we can at last defend ourselves against the misuse of our content just as the music and film industries have been doing for a long time, as they have been benefiting from a legal recognition at EU level. This legal protection is absolutely necessary for the development of economically sustainable business models in the digital environment. Currently, small press publishers cannot negotiate with internet giants. The Publishers' Right will help redress this unfair situation. Publishers could become more involved in how their content is being used in the digital world and could benefit from a share of the value derived from their investments in the future.

The EU is currently discussing the question of how to deal with "fake news" and populist currents. In our view, the production of reliable and professional journalism is the best tool to address misinformation on the internet. Regional and local press play a central democratic role in Europe. In an internet of opinions and claims, independent digital press offers for which publishers are legally liable are more important than ever to defend democratic values. The legal recognition of press publishers is an important contribution to the financial sustainability of professional journalism.

We therefore welcome the support of a Publisher's Right by the rapporteur MEP Voss in the leading committee on Legal Affairs. He has presented a proposal that would guarantee press

publishers an exclusive right as part of the current EU copyright reform, which affords the investment in quality journalism the much-overdue protection it deserves.

Should it remain possible for third parties to use press contents for their own business without any form of remuneration, the digital press and, with it, the future of the press as a whole will be jeopardized.

This is why we need your support in the current debate surrounding the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market, which is now entering a crucial phase. We hope we can count on you and your vote which is key for the future of local and regional journalism.

Yours sincerely,

Valdo Lehari Jr.  
CEO and Publisher  
*Reutlinger General -  
Anzeiger*  
Germany



Dr. Eduard Hüffer  
*Aschendorff GmbH & Co.  
KG*  
Germany



Inken Boyens  
*Boyens Medien GmbH &  
Co. KG*  
Germany



Paulo Narciso  
Publisher  
*Jornal Correio do Ribatejo*  
Portugal



Fernando Pereira  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Jornal Alto Minho*  
Portugal



Padraic Deane  
Publisher/Managing Editor  
*Automotive Publications*  
Ireland



Gudula Walterskirchen  
Burgenländische  
Volkszeitung GmbH  
*BVZ,*  
Austria



Ioannis Filippakis  
Publisher  
*Dimokratia*  
Greece



Nick Maxwell  
Publisher  
*Archaeology*  
Ireland



Markus Semmel  
CEO  
*H. Bauer Ediciones*  
Spain



Aurora Caldas  
CEO  
*Jornal Cerveira Nova*  
Portugal



José Câmara  
Board Member  
*Diário de Notícias da  
Madeira*  
Portugal



Gerry Murphy  
Publisher  
*Architecture Publishing Ltd*  
Ireland



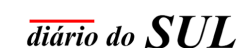
Nick Maxwell  
Publisher  
*Books*  
Ireland



Javier Pascual  
CEO  
*Condé Nast*  
Spain



José Piçarra  
Publisher  
*Jornal Diário do Sul*  
Portugal



Angel Salada  
Publisher  
*Electro Market*  
Spain



Traianos Chatzhdimitriou  
Publisher  
*Ethnos*  
Greece



Alexis Skanavis  
Publisher  
*Eleftheros Typos*  
Greece



Alexandros Mavridis-  
Pemkestzis  
Publisher  
*Fileleftheros*  
Greece



Emily Hourican  
Editor  
*Hospitality*  
Ireland



Nick Maxwell  
Publishing Manager  
*History*  
Ireland



Dimitris Stoumpos  
Publisher  
*Ayghi*  
Greece



Irini, Marietta & Agella  
Athanasiadou  
Publisher  
*Naftemporiki*  
Greece



Manos Marinakis  
Publisher  
*I Gata*  
Greece



Rebecca Markey  
CEO  
*IFP Media*  
Ireland



Angel Salada  
Publisher  
*IM Farmacias*  
Spain



Angel Salada  
Publisher  
*IM Médico*  
Spain



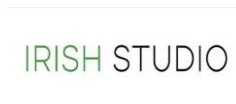
Natalino Vasconcelos  
Head of legal  
*Revista Digital Impala.pt*  
Portugal



Angel Salada  
Publisher  
*IM Veterinaria*  
Spain



Ciaran Casey  
CEO  
*Irish Studio*  
Ireland



Claude Karger  
Editor  
*Lëtzebuurger Journal*  
Luxembourg



Luís Figueiredo Trindade  
CEO  
*O Jornal Económico*  
Portugal



Francisco Carneiro  
Newsroom Manager  
*Jornal de Santo Tirso*  
Portugal



António José Gonçalves  
Editor-in-chief  
*Jornal Vilacondense*  
Portugal



Emili Alsina  
Publisher  
*Juguetes B2B*  
Spain



Dr. Manfred Prisching,  
Mag. Karl Kalcsics, Dr.  
Andrea Seel, Reinhold  
Dottolo.  
*Kleine Zeitung*  
Austria



Giorgos Tsirogiannis  
Publisher  
*Kontra news*  
Greece



Jean-Michel Baylet  
Président de l'UPREG  
Président Directeur  
Général  
*La Dépêche du Midi*  
France



François le Hodey  
CEO [IPM Group SA]  
*La Libre*  
Belgium



Olivier Saint-Cricq  
Président Directeur  
Général  
*Groupe Nouvelle  
République*  
France



Jean-Christophe Serfati  
Président Directeur  
Général  
*Groupe La Provence*  
France



Massimo Cincera  
CEO  
*La Provincia*  
Italy



Gabriel d'Harcourt  
Directeur Général Délégué  
*La Voix du Nord*  
France



Bernard Marchant  
CEO [Rossel & Cie SA]  
*Le Soir*  
Belgium



Frederik Delaplace  
CEO  
*De Tijd – L'echo*  
Belgium



Massimo Cincera  
CEO  
*L'Eco di Bergamo*  
Italy



Danièle Fonck  
Directrice  
*Le Jeudi*  
Luxembourg



Alvin Sold  
Administrateur délégué  
*Le Quotidien*  
Luxembourg



Edouard Coudurier  
Président Directeur  
Général  
*Groupe Télégramme*  
France



Emili Alsina  
Publisher  
*Licencias Actualidad*  
Spain



Johnny O'Hanlon  
Director  
*Local Ireland*  
Ireland



Antonio Hernández  
CEO  
*Luike Iberoamericana de  
Revistas*  
Spain



Michael Cullen  
Editor  
*Marketing.ie*  
Ireland



Bruno Pachent  
Director of Marketing  
*Média Sud Europe*  
France



Stoyana Georgieva  
Founder and Editor in chief  
*Mediapool.bg*  
Bulgary



Wojciech Waligórski  
Editor in chief  
*Nowy Łowiczanin*  
Poland



David Guévert  
Directeur Général  
*Nord Littoral*  
France



Maciej Kowalski  
Publisher and Editor in  
Chief  
*Nowy Wyszowskiak*  
Poland



Gudula Walterskirchen  
NÖ Pressehaus Druck/ und  
Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H  
*NÖN*  
Austria



Kostas Gavounas  
Publisher  
*O Logos*  
Greece



João Augusto Aldeia  
Editor-in-chief  
*Jornal O Sesimbrense*  
Portugal



Alicja Molenda  
Publisher  
*Przełom Tygodnik Ziemi  
Chrzanowskiej*  
Poland



Ross Golden-Bannon  
Publishing director/editor  
*RGB Consulting*  
Ireland



Andrés Rodríguez  
CEO  
*Spainmedia*  
Spain



Hermann Petz  
Schlüsselverlag J.S. Moser  
GmbH  
*Tiroler Tageszeitung*  
Austria



João Godinho  
Manager  
*Jornal O Almonda*  
Portugal



Jaume Ferrer  
Publisher  
*Outdoor Actual*  
Spain



Emili Alsina  
Publisher  
*Puericultura Market*  
Spain



Max Dasch  
Salzburger Nachrichten  
VerlagsgesmbH & Co KG  
*Salzburger Nachrichten*  
Austria



Periklis Giolias  
Publisher  
*Sportime*  
Greece



Jaume Ferrer  
Publisher  
*Tradebike*  
Spain



Louis Echelard  
Président du directoire  
*Ouest*  
France



Frédéric Cassegrain  
Directeur  
*Paris-Normandie*  
France



María del Carmen Coronas  
General Manager  
*RBA*  
Spain



Tania Martínez  
CEO  
*Semana*  
Spain



Alvin Sold  
Administrateur délégué  
*Tageblatt*  
Luxembourg



Jaume Ferrer  
Publisher  
*Tradesport*  
Spain



Ryszard Pajura  
Publisher  
Agnieszka Majba-Pochwat  
Editor in Chief  
*Obserwator Lokalny*  
Poland



Cláudia Maia  
Publisher  
*Revista Proteste*  
Portugal



Ângela Gil  
General Director  
*Jornal Região de Leiria*  
Portugal



Dariusz Kuziak  
Editor in chief  
*Tygodnik Siedlecki*  
Poland



Lola Fernández  
Publisher  
*Tech Press/ Tecni Food/*  
GTA  
Spain



Rosa Duarte  
Board Member  
*Jornal Trevim*  
Portugal



Eugen A. Russ  
Russmedia Verlag GmbH  
Vorarlberger Nachrichten  
Austria



John Mullins  
Chief Executive  
*Zahra Media Group*  
Ireland



Marta Auriño  
CEO  
*Zinet Media Group*  
Spain

