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THE ABC OF COPYRIGHT REFORM

Copyright Untangled is a series of factsheets about education and the copyright reform. This sheet will explain recurring concepts and the timeline regarding the copyright reform.

“Every day as a researcher, even in one of the wealthiest European universities, you hit restrictions based around copyright that stifle your research. Private interests should not be allowed to interfere with the public good, especially for health, education, and research.”

– Researcher, petition signee rightcopyright.eu

The Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (DSM Directive)

Is a law (Directive) proposed by the European Commission. On 14 september 2016 European Commission presented its proposal for the DSM Directive to the European Parliament. The aim of the Directive is to harmonize some rules for using copyright protected material. Regarding education the rules for illustration of teaching, and its application for digital uses, to make sure copyright rules concerning (digital) education are the same in every member state of the European Union.

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The European Commission

Can propose legislation such as the DSM Directive. It is similar to a cabinet government. It consists out of 28 members, one member per member state, who represent the general interest of the European Union.

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The European Parliament (EP)

Is the directly elected body of the European Union. They can approve or reject the DSM Directive together with the Council of the European Union. The EP is divided in multiple committees. Committee members propose amendments after which the committee votes on which amendments they think are better than the original proposed text. This document is called an Opinion. Almost all relevant committees have voted on their Opinion before the summer of 2017.

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- **The legal affairs committee (JURI)** the most important committee on the DSM Directive, takes the Opinions of the other committees into account in their report to the European Parliament. JURI will be the last committee to vote on its amendments in October 2017.
- **The Internal Market and Consumer Protection committee (IMCO)** focusses on reducing barriers to economic trade and simplify legislation to enhance competitiveness across the Single Market, while including the consumer's interests.

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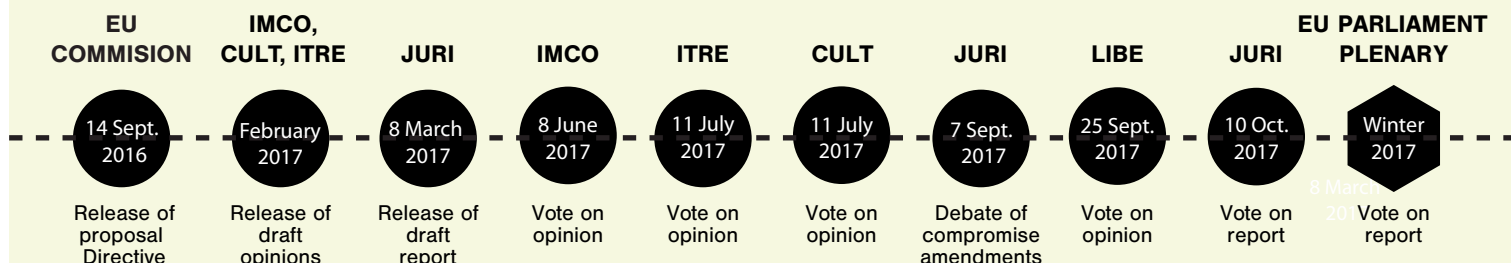
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- The committee on Culture and Education (CULT) is responsible for all the cultural aspects of the European Union including cultural heritage and education. [read more](#)
- The Industry, Research and Energy committee (ITRE) is responsible for areas related to industry, information technology and telecommunications. [read more](#)
- A **Rapporteur** reports the findings of his committee to the European Parliament. **Axel Voss** was appointed as the rapporteur for the proposal for a Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market for the legal committee. [read more](#)

The Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers)

Comprises of national ministers, but more commonly expert representatives from the relevant ministries. They can approve or reject the DSM Directive. [read more](#)

Timeline:



* This timeline is subject to change

Join us in our mission to shape the future of education

- Share this handout with educators and educational organisations across Europe to inform them about the current copyright reform and what is had to do with education.
- Sign up for our [monthly newsletter](#)
- We are building an informal coalition of like-minded organisations and individuals. If you want to be part of our community and raise your voice for better copyright for education, drop us a line at education@communia-association.org so that we can make sure to keep you up to date on our activities.