DSA: Europe in the hands of digital giants

We, actors of all the cultural and creative industries in France, cannot silently bear witness when the acquis, that was constituted over the last 20 years in terms of the protection of our rights online, is being undermined during the French Presidency of the European Union.

The Digital Services Act aims to reinforce the liability and due diligence obligations of all digital services; that is to say, to regulate online content and to protect citizens against illegal content.

The intentions are there. But so far, the actions go in the opposite direction.

How should we understand the fact that both the European Parliament and the Council vote to reduce the liability of major digital players and weaken the rightsholders’ ability to seek redress against pirated content? France, which is the spearhead in the protection of our works and content against the online giants, must, together with the other Member States, seize this opportunity to put an end to the “digital Wild West”.

The stakes are too high to move forward too rapidly with the justification that it is a horizontal Regulation or because of agenda constraints. Legislating on digital services must serve the general interest, without weakening copyright, as only copyright allows for freedom of expression and cultural diversity.

This is why we solemnly ask our Government, our elected representatives, our representatives within the European authorities, to create the conditions that kick start a change during the trilogue process, in order to restore coherence between the spirit and the wording of the DSA, and in particular: to better fight against illegal offers and content, including beyond online marketplaces, and to avoid the weakening or even the questioning of the European and national acquis in terms of respect of intellectual property rights. This should be the ambition of the French Presidency of the European Union.

Our sectors already have a long history in the digital word: it must remain a strength, for the benefit of all.

See signatories in the original document.