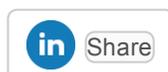


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INTERNATIONAL

EU negotiators reach compromise deal on Marrakesh Treaty

On 10 May, negotiators from the European Parliament, Council and Commission reached a compromise on how to implement the Marrakesh Treaty in the European Union (EU). The Treaty will give the blind and other print disabled people better access to books.

Commenting, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus Ansip said, "I am delighted that EU copyright rules will now be adapted to allow visually impaired and people with reading disabilities to

Upcoming meetings and events

Primavera & Sound
31 May – 4 June 2017,
Barcelona

Midem
6 – 9 June 2017,
Cannes

ICMP at Midem
Board meeting, 6 June

General Assembly, 7 June

Production Music

education, work and entertainment. I am particularly pleased that our Digital Single Market strategy creates more social inclusion. And I am also confident that this compromise today will pave the way for a rapid ratification of the Marrakesh treaty by the EU”.

The deal now needs to be formally approval by the European Parliament and Council

NAFTA renegotiation to include IP rights and digital trade

The United States intends to revisit the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico. Newly appointed United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, issued a letter to Congress on 18 May, in which IP rights and digital trade are addressed. See the letter [here](#).

FTAs should be ratified at national level, rules ECJ

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) on 16 May ruled that Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) containing non-direct foreign investment provisions must be ratified by the EU’s Member States and are not effective simply under EU ratification alone.

However, the ECJ also ruled that agreements regarding intellectual property rights, transport, labour, and environmental standards are exclusively within the EU’s competence.

The ruling is important for upcoming FTAs the EU

Bureaux meeting, 8 June

2nd Intellectual Property Enforcement Summit
22-23 June 2017,
Berlin

CEEMPC (Central and Eastern European Music Publishers Congress)
28 September 2017,
Warsaw

WOMEX – World Music Expo 2017
25 – 29 October 2017,
Katowice

Regular updates on all our events are available on:
www.icmp-ciem.org

GLOBAL LINKS

[World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#)

[World Trade Organisation \(WTO\)](#)

[Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers \(ICANN\)](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

China: New IP courts planned

China is to establish IP courts in four of its new cities: Nanjing, Suzhou, Chengdu and Wuhan. The choice of cities is strategic toward areas of China experiencing greater economic growth than others.

The courts will have two divisions: one to hear technical cases involving technology and patents and another to specifically handle cases of trademarks and copyright. Currently there are three IP courts in China.

AFRICAN UNION

Africa: Brighter future for artists and labels in Africa?

Music trade body IFPI, and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the copyright law framework and licensing of sound recording rights across Africa.

It is expected that this support will help African artists and record labels to be compensated fairly for their work, while enhancing the African music market.

AMERICAS

[European Parliament](#)[European Commission](#)[Council of the European Union](#)[European Union Intellectual Property Office](#)

NEWS LINKS

[MPA UK Compact](#)[AMPAL Update](#)[The Dean's List](#)[IMPF - Indie Notes](#)[Budde Music France Newsletter](#)

EUROPE

Mariya Gabriel to take over Commission's digital portfolio

The European Commission on 16 May approved Bulgarian centre-right MEP Mariya Gabriel as the EU Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society.

Gabriel fills a gap left open for several months after Gunther Oettinger transferred to the Budget Directorate-



Canada/United States: Soundexchange acquires CMRAA

Non-profit collective management organisation (CMO) Soundexchange, has fully acquired mechanical rights CMO the Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency Ltd. (CMRRA).

The deal will merge the management of Anglo-American sound recordings and music publishing repertoire. Both companies will continue to operate separately, but will work closely together behind the scenes.

See the announcement from CMRAA [here](#).

United States: Department of Justice appeals Consent Decree ruling

On 18 May, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that it will appeal a September 2016 ruling to compel CMO BMI, to practice 100% licensing.

100% licensing applies to songs that have multiple writers. The DOJ believes that licensees only need one license from these songs to legally play the music. However, music publishers have always

hearing with committees dealing with tech should also take place in a few weeks' time.

Digital Single Market mid-term review

On 10 May, the European Commission published its mid-term review of its Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy. The review provided an update on various digital initiatives, took stock of progress and provided a political push towards the fulfilment of the DSM strategy, first launched in May 2015.

Of most interest to ICMP is the review's focus on online platforms, which is highlighted as an area where the EU must take greater action. In this regard, the review states that the Commission will "prepare legislative instruments" to address unfair contractual clauses and trading practices in platform-to-business relationships.

The Commission will also provide guidance on liability rules and better coordinate dialogue with online platforms for the effective removal of illegal content.

Vice-President for the DSM Andrus Ansip, who presented the review, said that the rules on removing illegal content

In September last year, rate court judge Louis Stanton ruled that the consent decree does not require 100% licensing, much to music publishers relief. But the DOJ is now appealing this decision.

"It is unfortunate that the DOJ has decided to pursue its appeal of Judge Stanton's decision, which so clearly and dramatically struck down the Department's unworkable position of imposing 100% licensing," NMPA President and CEO David Israelite said in a statement.

"We are confident in BMI's ability to defend their position and that they will prevail on behalf of songwriters and music publishers. Everyone in the music industry understands that imposing additional burdens on songwriters, and upending the entire industry, is an undeserved punishment of America's creators, not a solution," he added.

NATIONAL NEWS

Belgium: Court of appeal rules in favour of Reprobel

On 12 May, the Court of Appeal of Brussels ruled in favour of Reprobel in a lawsuit against Hewlett Packard (HP) Belgium.

The ruling states that publishers' remuneration in the framework of reprography is legitimate and does not affect authors' compensation. It also maintains that

He also said that the Commission would try to clarify what companies should do, when illegal content appears on their platforms. In addition, the right of users to object, should their content be removed, would also be looked at.

Separately, the European Commission has voted in favour of content portability, giving EU citizens the right to access digital content when traveling across EU Member States.

The move would allow users to access regional online content subscriptions for platforms like Spotify and Netflix, when outside their member state of residence.

OTHER NEWS



Warner/Chappell music publisher of the year at Awards

reproductions from an illegal source are concerned.

This case follows the highly controversial ECJ preliminary ruling on the Hewlett Packard Belgium / Reprobel case (C-572/13) of November 2015.

See a Reprobel press release on the matter [here](#):

France: Indie Book Publisher, Francoise Nyssen, is appointed French Culture Minister

The French creative industry is enthusiastic about the appointment of Francoise Nyssen as the French Culture Minister. Nyssen is an author and indie book publisher.

Laurent Grasso, the French conceptual artist commented, "She'll have the means to create a visionary cultural policy that gives a social link in a divided and bruised country. It would be magnificent if a Parisian biennial were created. Artists are rarely consulted [on policy]; I hope that she will receive some of us for a discussion."

Greece/China: Ancient civilisations to enhance cultural exchanges

Earlier this month, Greece and China commemorated their intent to deepen cultural exchange between the two ancient civilisations. Their initiative is called the Cultural Exchanges and Cultural Industry Cooperation Year and aims to strengthen bilateral relations between both sides.

Cultural exchanges currently occur in film and books,

Los Angeles on 9 May.

The publishers' songwriters were handed 17 gongs: Ross Golan with four, Julia Michaels with three, and Tyler Joseph of Twenty One Pilots with two.

International Federation of Musicians honours Air Canada

On 11 May, Air Canada received the Airline of Choice Award from trade body, the International Federation of Musicians (FIM).

An international jury set-up by FIM established that the airline is the best at accommodating musicians traveling with their instrument and that it takes measures to fully inform artists about regulations on travelling with their instruments.

Commenting, FIM General Secretary Benoit Machuel said, "Air Canada goes clearly beyond the requirements of the FAA regulation in the US - which today is the benchmark - by offering a 50% discount on a second seat for an instrument when necessary, as well as giving priority boarding to musicians and their instruments. Air Canada's policy towards musicians is in our view exemplary."

United Kingdom: It takes on average 4.5 people to produce a hit

Trade media outlet, Music Week's analysis of the Top 100 UK singles of 2016, shows that a collaboration of 4.53 songwriters is the average involvement when it comes to producing top songs. For songs in the top 30, this figure rises to 4.67.

United Kingdom: MCPS closes admin deal with PRS for Music

After a lengthy tendering process, CMO The Mechanical Copyright Protection Society Limited (MCPS), has announced that is to have a "long-term" administration agreement with fellow CMO PRS For Music. PRS is charged with taking care of the administration of areas of its business and all back-office operations.

MCPS Chair and ICMP Board Member, Chris Butler said, "It was essential not to rush this process. Having worked so hard to identify the needs of the MCPS membership we needed to ensure that all possibilities were considered thoroughly. One thing became very clear early on, however, and that is that the mechanical right is in great demand. The MCPS business is in a much better position than it was in 2013 and this is a brand new relationship with PRS for Music."

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The Ivors held in London

The 62nd Ivor Novello Awards took place in London on 18 May. The big winners of the night were Skepta, Pulp, Gary Numan, Bill Withers, Florence Welch, Coldplay and Nitin Sawhne. The Ivors celebrate, honour and reward excellence in songwriting and composing. See all the winners [here](#).



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