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Artists and authors are calling for stronger protections for generative AI

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In a joint letter, thirteen leading European and international organisations representing creative professionals are calling on the members of the European Parliament's JURI Committee to respond ambitiously and principle-based to MEP Axel Voss's upcoming report on copyright and generative AI.

Thirteen leading European and international organisations representing writers, performers, musicians and other creative professionals urge the JURI Committee of the European Parliament to strengthen protections for creators in the face of generative artificial intelligence (AI).

In a joint letter, the coalition called for an ambitious and principled response to MEP Axel Voss's upcoming report, 'Copyright and Generative Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges', emphasising the importance of ensuring that the development of generative AI complies with the principles of informed authorisation, remuneration, and transparency for authors, performers, and other rights holders.

This collective action, involving organisations such as the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA), the federation of European Screen Directors (FERA), the European Writers' Council (EWC) and the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), highlights mounting concerns about the unrestricted use of copyrighted creative works by AI models. The signatories argue that AI systems have been trained using a vast amount of copyrighted material without the necessary authorisation, remuneration or transparency, which threatens the very foundation of Europe's creative and cultural sectors.

“Generative AI models would not exist without the works created by our members,” the letter states. “Yet they now directly compete with these works, threatening to replace human creativity and labour with devastating economic consequences.”

The signatories urge Members of the European Parliament to address what they perceive as the systemic misuse of copyright exceptions, particularly the text and data mining provisions in Articles 3 and 4 of the EU Copyright in the Digital Single Market (CDSM) Directive of 2019.

Adopted before the rise of generative AI, these provisions are now being interpreted in ways that allow the extensive exploitation of creative works without consent.



Protecting the rights of creators and artists in the development of generative AI

Joint letter to the European Parliament's JURI Committee on the upcoming own-initiative report on copyright and generative AI

Brussels, 19 June 2025

Dear Member of the Legal Affairs (JURI) Committee,

We are writing to you on behalf of a coalition of professional organisations representing the collective voice of hundreds of thousands of writers, translators, journalists, performers, composers, songwriters, screen directors, screenwriters, visual artists, and other artists and creative workers.

First of all, we would like to thank the European Parliament and its Legal Affairs Committee for drafting a report on "Copyright and generative artificial intelligence – opportunities and challenges." **It is a crucial opportunity to engage in a long-overdue, democratic debate on generative AI and its impact on copyright – a debate that never took place when the text and data mining (TDM) exceptions** (Articles 3 and 4 of the EU CDSM Directive) **were adopted more than six years ago.**

As of today, generative AI models have already exploited massive amounts of protected works without any authorisation, remuneration or transparency for the authors, artists and performers we represent. These generative AI models would not exist without the works created

The coalition outlines four main demands to the JURI Committee:

1. Clarify TDM Exceptions: Initiate a democratic debate on the applicability and scope of TDM exceptions. The groups stress the need for compliance with the “three-step test,” a legal safeguard to ensure copyright exceptions are narrowly and fairly applied.
2. Implement the AI Act Without Delay: The creators reject any postponement of the AI Act’s implementation and call for full transparency regarding the data used to train AI systems. They also advocate for a presumption that generative AI systems use protected works, in order to shift the burden of proof away from rightsholders.
3. Ensure Informed Authorisation and Fair Remuneration: Creators must retain the right to give or withhold prior, explicit consent for the use of their works in AI training. Any licensing

must result in appropriate compensation, not just for inputs (the original works) but also for outputs generated by AI.

4. Protect Moral Rights and Personal Data: The coalition raises serious concerns about the misuse of performers' voices, likenesses, and other personal attributes by generative AI tools. They call for legal safeguards to protect both data and dignity.

The signatories criticise current interpretations of EU copyright law as inadequate and even contradictory to international norms and court rulings, such as the CJEU's decision in Soulier & Doke (2016), which invalidated general opt-out systems in favour of informed consent.
Without proper regulation, they warn, creators will be left powerless against powerful AI developers, unable to even identify whether their works have been used. They also highlight how the current legal uncertainty exposes AI providers themselves to future liability.

"This is not just unfair—it is unacceptable," the letter states, calling on the European Parliament to "promote the development of generative AI in full compliance with EU copyright law and the principles of informed authorisation, remuneration and transparency."

Read the letter here.

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