

THE PALAIS ROYAL APPEAL

We are people with stories to tell.

From our childhood to our twilight years, we are nurtured by stories from the human imagination.

What is a human being without these stories?

We read about them and watch them on our mobile phones and TVs, we learn about them in museums, book stores, cinemas and even when we're lying in bed; our lives are richer for these stories.

But our music, our words and our images are now under threat.

Not from the state censorship that has been our lot throughout European history.

But from the new monsters that are now presenting the stories to us.

In these times when our royalties/ authors' rights are already pared back, major online platforms like YouTube and Facebook are profiting from the creativity and passion that we hand over to them.

And what do they do with it?

They use it as advertising pulp.

Do they respect us as creators?

No.

What do they pay us as the architects of human emotion?

A pittance.

And what do they earn from this sustenance that we feed to them daily to enhance their platforms?

Billions.

YouTube pays musicians a tenth of what Deezer or Spotify pay, which itself is little enough.

The figures are secret.

Protected by confidentiality agreements.

Must our cultural life be negotiated by lawyers, leaving a menacing silence in the wake of their done deals?

Obscurity is the shield behind which monsters hide.

They avoid the light.

They don't want any bother.

Is this the world we want to live in?

A world of monsters?

Unassailable monsters? Monsters that don't pay their taxes? That don't pay their content creators? That suck up details about our private lives to improve and increase their sales?

Are we content to be reduced to mere promotional products, or are we still rational, free citizens?

Let us no longer stay quietly behind our screens.

We creators have no power if we stand alone.

But together with you - our readers, our viewers, our listeners - we are stronger. As Victor Hugo said, we are a 'force qui va', a force to be reckoned with.

Let us stand in opposition to the powerful online platforms that have so much influence on our everyday lives.

Let us not leave the fate of our stories in the hands of these platforms that have no respect for them. They profit from the things we love. They deserve no impunity for their technical skills.

Let us build a barrier against the monsters and drive them back into the sea.

We creators, and we citizens of France and Europe, formally demand that the Copyright Directive be adopted.

The monsters will then no longer be able to barge into our homes without first knocking at the door.

They will no longer be able to take part of our lives, the best part, without asking permission and without paying for it fairly.

We ask members of the European Parliament to show the monsters that citizens' rights and the power of democracy is inalienable. The effectiveness of the European Union is often doubted. Prove to us why this Europe exists; show us why the people elected you.

We depend on you to represent our views. Don't be slaves of the machine that would silence the debate and refuse to account for itself.

67% of Europeans today think the monsters - GAFAM - have more power than you do.

How did it come to this?

Wake up!

Let us fight for our stories and our passions; let us make ourselves heard.

Vote for the Copyright Directive on [12 September](#).

This is the Palais Royal appeal.