

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002342/20
to the Commission
Henna Virkkunen (PPE)
(17 April 2020)**

Subject: Inaction on private copying levies

The device-based private copying levy system used in the EU continues to cause considerable legal uncertainty and market distortions. It also has an impact on the free movement of goods and services within the single market. Both Parliament and the Commission, along with national institutions, have universally recognised these difficulties.

A 2017 EU REFIT platform opinion recommended that the Commission consider ‘what EU measures could be taken to achieve a greater level of consistency among national private copying levy systems, including common criteria for the calculation of the tariffs as well as the devices affected.’ In addition, the Commission’s 2015 communication entitled ‘Towards a modern, more European copyright framework’ (COM(2015)0626 final) committed to a proper assessment of the national systems.

1. What action has the Commission taken to follow up on these recommendations to harmonise levying systems between the Member States?
2. Will it propose that outdated device-based levies be abolished and replaced by a more modern arrangement?

**Answer given by Mr Breton on behalf of the European Commission
(20 July 2020)**

As a follow-up to the Refit Platform opinion mentioned by the Honourable Member, the Commission has intensified its dialogue with the different stakeholders involved in the collection and distribution of private copying levies. The Commission has notably regularly met representatives from the ICT industry over the last months, which presented an update on national case law and emerging initiatives to reform national levies schemes, based on the several rulings of the European Court of Justice and technological developments. The Commission is following such national developments very closely.

The Commission is currently not planning any action with respect to private copying levies. However, the Commission will continue the dialogue with all stakeholders.
