

AI Act: Open letter from the cultural, creative and media industries of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Federal Government



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January 26th, 2024

Dear Chancellor, Olaf Scholz,
Dear Federal Minister, Marco Buschmann,
Dear Federal Minister, Robert Habeck,
Dear Federal Minister, Volker Wissing,
Dear Minister of State for Culture, Claudia Roth,

We, the more than 140,000 authors, performing artists and cultural professionals of the 44 associations of the Copyright Initiative, together with numerous associations of the press, publishing, film and music industries as well as the undersigning collecting societies, ask you to ensure that the Federal Government, in the course of the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Member States (COREPER) on 2 February 2024, approves the present draft of the AI Basic Regulation (EU) in the sense of a sustainable, economically viable and democratic future and without further restrictions to the detriment of artists and cultural and media professionals.

The basic rules set out in the draft regulation for regulating the operation of generative AI systems are important for the economic future of all cultural, media and creative industries and of their more than 1.2 million tax-paying employees, self-employed people and hundreds of thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises*. It was a difficult process, but the compromise in the draft is a step in the right direction. It certainly does not represent overregulation for IT companies. For authors, artists, cultural and media professionals, the compromise offers the absolute minimum level of protection.

All those who create and utilise culture and media are dependent on licensing. Appropriate remuneration requires transparency. However, the profitable development of generative AI systems to date has been largely based on the illegitimate use of copyright-protected cultural assets and citizens' personal data. This business practice, which has been unfair for a decade, is already having a destructive effect on the creative industries, including loss of employment and investment damage.

We believe in democracy, we believe in values such as the protection of human dignity, the protection of human rights, copyright, data protection and personal rights. Instead of giving individual technology companies a competitive advantage by continuing to break the law and leaving the risks for society for which they are responsible unpunished, we must assign responsibility and help responsible AI companies to compete fairly.

The fair shaping of tomorrow's world is in your hands.

(on behalf of all signatory organisations)

Katharina Uppenbrink, Managing Director of the Copyright Initiative

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* The Federal Ministry of Economics estimates that the cultural, creative and media sector has a gross value added of 106.4 billion euros (second place behind vehicle construction), a turnover of 174.1 billion euros, over 258,790 companies and over 1.2 million core workers, of which almost 1 million are in employment subject to social insurance contributions.

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Signatory

Alliance of German Designers

www.agd.de

Professional Association for Documentary Film

www.agdok.de

AudioVisual Translators - AVÜ e.V.

www.filmuebersetzen.de

German Publishers and Booksellers Association

www.boersenverein.de

Federal Association of Visual Artists

www.bbk-bundesverband.de

Professional Association for Communication Design

www.bdg.de

Association of Scenographers

www.szenografen-bund.de

Federal Congress Children's Book

<https://bundeskongress-kinderbuch.de>

Federal Association of Freelance Photographers and Film Designers

www.bff.de

Federal Acting Association

www.bffs.de

Federal Association of Freelance Cultural Scientists

www.b-f-k.de

Federal Association of Film Editors e.V.

www.bfs-filmeditor.de

German Music Industry Association (BVMI)

www.musikindustrie.de

Federal Association of Digital Publishers and Newspaper Publishers

www.bdzv.de

BVPA - Federal Association of Professional Image Providers

www.bvpa.org

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Federal Association of Dubbing Directors and Dialogue Book
www.bsd-synchron.de

Federal Association of Architectural Photography BVAf e.V.
www.bvaf.de

Professional Association for Film Sound
www.bvft.de

Professional Cinematography Association
www.kinematografie.org

Federal Association of Directors
www.regieverband.de

Composers Club e.V.
www.composers-club.de

German Trade Press
www.deutsche-fachpresse.de

German Screenwriting Association
www.drehbuchverband.de

German Film Composers Union
www.defkom.de

German Jazz Union
www.deutsche-jazzunion.de

German Music and Orchestra Association
www.uni-sono.org

German Artists' Association
www.kuenstlerbund.de

German Trade Union Confederation
www.dgb.de

German Journalists' Union
www.dju.verdi.de

German Federation of Journalists Union of Journalists
www.djv.de

German Composers' Association
www.komponist-innenverband.de

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German Lyricists' Association

www.textdichter-verband.de

Freelens

www.freelens.com

Cooperative of German Stage Employees

www.gdba.de

Society for Musical Performing and Mechanical Reproduction Rights (GEMA)

www.gema.de

German collecting society for performing artists and producers

www.gvl.de

Illustrators Organisation e.V.

www.illustratoren-organisation.de

Copyright initiative

www.urheber.info

Media music

www.mediamusic-ev.de

Murderous sisters

www.moerderische-schwestern.eu

MVFP: Media Association of the Free Press

www.mvfp.de

NAR - Network Authors' Rights

www.netzwerk-autorenrechte.de

PEN- Centre Germany

www.pen-deutschland.de

SPIO - The German Cinema Industry's Umbrella Organisation

www.spio.de

Association of Independent Music Creators

www.promusikverband.de

Game designers' guild

www.spieleautorenzunft.de

Text and Concept e.V.

www.berufsverbandtext.de

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VAUNET – Private Media Association

www.vau.net

Association of German Local Newspapers and Local Media

www.lokalpresse.de

Association for German-language Crime Literature

www.das-syndikat.com

Association of Radio Play Directors

www.dhr.info

ver.di

www.medien.verdi.de

Association of German Music Arrangers

www.musikbearbeiter-ev.de

Association of German Opera and Dance Companies

www.vdoper.de

Association of German Speakers

www.sprecherverband.de

Association of German-speaking Translators of Literary and Scientific Works

www.literaturuebersetzer.de

Association of the Professional Groups Production Design and Costume Design e.V.

www.v-sk.de

Association of German Writers in ver.di

www.kunst-kultur.verdi.de

Collecting society Bild-Kunst (VG Bild-Kunst)

www.bildkunst.de

Collecting society Wort

www.vgwort.de

VUT - Association of Independent Music Entrepreneurs

www.vut.de