



Beautiful as Aphrodite?

7th Session: EU Copyright Reform

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Abstract

The EU copyright reform: a bit like the marriage of Aphrodite and Hephaestus?

Since the release of the Digital Single Market Strategy in 2015, the EU Commission has issued a number of proposals to reform the EU copyright framework, including - in 2016 – a proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market. So far the most controversial provisions have arguably been the proposed press publishers' right (Article 11), the 'value gap' provision (Article 13), and the text and data mining exception (Article 3). Currently EU legislature is considering whether and in what form the directive should be adopted.

In all this, the EU Commission has recently recommended initiatives to be taken to tackle illegal content across a number of different areas (including IP rights), and the CJEU has continued playing a central role in the construction of EU copyright.

The myth suggests that the marriage of Aphrodite and Hephaestus was not one of the happiest ones, and eventually the goddess had a long affair with Ares, god of war. Is the EU copyright reform likely to have a fate as doomed as this marriage?