

PRESS RELEASE

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AEPO-ARTIS welcomes the adoption of the Directive on the extension of the term of protection

Today, the EU Council of Ministers adopted the Commission and European Parliament Directive to extend the term of protection for performers' rights in sound recordings in the EU from 50 to 70 years.

AEPO-ARTIS representing 28 performers' collective management organisations from 22 countries in Europe warmly greets this development and expresses its gratitude for the work undertaken by the European institutions involved in this lengthy process.

It welcomes the accompanying measures to the Directive, notably that the Directive provides that performers, who do not benefit from royalty payments, will nevertheless by law receive remuneration when their performances are exploited during the extended period of protection.

While the new Directive may benefit rightholders in the audio sector, it is regrettable that it will not cover audiovisual performers. Performers in the audiovisual sector deserve to enjoy the same protection that their fellow performers in the audio sector will now receive and AEPO-ARTIS calls upon the European institutions to go further in this regard.

While the Directive is a step in the right direction, the situation of performers in the EU has still to be improved. Currently, when performers' recordings are used online in the ever increasing number of on-demand services, they receive little or no financial return. A guarantee of remuneration should be provided at EU level to ensure that performers are rewarded for this exploitation of their performances.

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