



MUSIC IN THE DIGITAL AGE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND ARTISTS' RIGHTS

ATHENS, OCTOBER 22-24, STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CULTURAL CENTER

OPENING SPEECHES

Music in the Digital Age: Streaming & Artificial Intelligence has been a three-day international forum organized by APOLLON (Greek CMO for musicians' neighboring rights) and FIM (International Federation of Musicians). Against the backdrop of **AI-generated content and the dominance of streaming platforms**, the conference examined how **revenue models, legal frameworks and artistic labor are being reshaped** in a digital economy that prioritizes scale over sustainability.

Bringing together artists, journalists, industry professionals, legal experts, academics, policy makers and technologists, the event focused on three core questions:

- How to build **sustainable and equitable compensation** models in a saturated streaming market?
- How to protect creators' rights when **AI is trained on and competes with their work?**
- What role should legislation play in **securing ethical AI and fairer digital markets** without stifling innovation?

Mr Christodoulou, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Athens University offered a philosophical lens, arguing that today's technological challenges - unemployment and depersonalization from AI and digital cloning - are modern reincarnations of historical concerns.



APOLLON
GREEK MUSICIANS'
COLLECTING SOCIETY



OPENING SPEECHES | KOSTANTINOS CHRISTODOULOU

Athens, October 22, 2025

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

Dear Deputy Minister for the Culture, dear ex-Minister Katselis, dear President Smith, dear President Lamprianidis, dear General Secretary Georgountzos, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor and pleasure for me in my capacity as the Dean of the Law Faculty of National Kapodistrian University of Athens to welcome you in this prestigious conference.

Its topic is, of course, thrilling for all of us. I might save powers in order to participate in the main panel, the legislative one. Nevertheless, I'll not resist the temptation of making here some brief preliminary remarks.

It is said, perhaps by Einstein, that technology never raises new problems, new issues. It re-raises old ones. For instance, it is accused of causing unemployment. Where, for instance, shall be in the future, the domestic helpers? But even more, we might, even more generally speaking, we might hear speak of the so-called Solow paradox: technology increases, but productivity decreases, or at least it follows by a longer way. Furthermore, technology is accused of causing depersonalization. Let's get two examples.

The first, of course, the main one, are the products of autonomous generative AI. They are not, of course, products of human beings, so they are not considered to be works, protected works. Nevertheless, the investors urge to recognize them as sort of copyrighted, neighboring or whatever authorship. The second one, in the frame of neighboring rights is, of course, the very well-known, Hollywood phenomenon of digital cloning of actors. So... are we speaking of the same phenomenon?

Professor Koumandos, the founder of Greek copyrights science, used to say that the greater a quantitative differentiation is, the more qualitative seems to become. So perhaps we are speaking of a new era. Anyway, either speaking of a new era or not, we might say here that, the Law Faculty of Athens University is here to support, to go along with the man: the human performer, the human author. And as once more, Koumandos used to say, "the man with his calves and patience".

So since this conference, at least in its introductory part, seems to be linguistically speaking a hybrid one, permit me for a while, and since I stick with the clock, Mr. President, to shift in Greek for a while.

Ladies and gentlemen, I was saying that, according to Albert Einstein, technology never introduces new problems – it simply reintroduces old ones. And the Luddites, for example, used to argue that technology eliminates jobs, causes unemployment, or leads to depersonalization, distancing us from the human element. And indeed, in this case as well, we face unemployment caused by various digital assistants. We also face depersonalization, and I mentioned as examples both the products of artificial intelligence, which are supposedly being proposed as works of authorship eligible for copyright protection, and the so-called “digital cloning,” that is, the digital doubles of actors used in Hollywood.

So I said that the distance may now be so great, the phenomenon so extensive, that we may not simply be talking about yet another technological development, but about a new era altogether. And I said that whatever happens, we here at the Law School – which has the honor of offering its auspices to this event – stand following in the footsteps of Georgios Koumandos, the founder of copyright law in Greece, who used to say that copyright exists in order to support the human being: the creator, the performer, with his passions and his devotion. Thank you very much.

**Kostantinos Christodoulou,
Dean of the Faculty of Law of Athens University**

