

# EU Law Threatens Free/Open Source Software

By *Roy Schestowitz*

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## [EU votes on copyright law that could kill memes and open source software](#) [3]

The European Union has passed an initial vote in favour of the Copyright Directive, a legislation experts say "threatens the internet".

As reported by Wired, the mandate is designed to update internet copyright law but contains two controversial clauses. Ultimately, it could force prominent online platforms to censor their users' content before it's posted?which could impact everyone from meme creators to open source software designers and livestreamers.

Despite passing a vote yesterday?held by the EU's Legal Affairs Committee (JURI)?the directive needs parliamentary approval before becoming law.

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## [The EU Parliament Legal Affairs Committee Vote on Directive on Copyright, David Clark Cause and IBM's Call for Code, Equus' New WHITEBOX OPEN Server Platform and More](#) [4]

Yesterday the European Parliament Legal Affairs Committee voted in favor of "the most harmful provisions of the proposed Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market", Creative Commons reports. The provisions include the Article 11 "link tax", which requires "anyone using snippets of journalistic content to first get a license or pay a fee to the publisher for its use online." The committee also voted in favor of Article 13, which "requires online platforms to monitor their users' uploads and try to prevent copyright infringement through

automated filtering." There are still several steps to get through before the Directive is completely adopted. See EDRi for more information.

- [GitHub: Changes to EU copyright law could derail open source distribution](#) [5]

- [The E.U. votes to make memes essentially illegal](#) [6]

On Wednesday, European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs voted to essentially make memes illegal. The decision came as part of the approval process for the innocuously named 'Article 13,' which would require larger sites to scan all user uploads using content recognition technology in an attempt to flag any and all remotely copyrighted material in photos, text, music, videos, and more. Meaning memes using stills from copyrighted films could be auto-blocked, along with remixes of viral videos, and basically anything that's popular on live-streaming sites like Twitch.

- [Europe takes step towards 'censorship machines' for internet uploads](#) [7]

A key committee at the European Parliament has voted for a new provision in a legislative act that forces tech giants and other online platforms to share revenues with publishers. It is known as Article 13, and is part of an updating of the Copyright Directive.

Article 13 proposes that large websites use 'content recognition technologies' to scan for copyrighted materials, though it doesn't explain how this works in practice. This means texts, sounds and even code which get uploaded have to go through an automated filtering system, potentially threatening the creation of memes and open-source software developers.

## [OSS Legal](#)

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