

Michel Barnier
European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services
1049 Brussels, Belgium



3rd July 2013, Strasbourg

Dear Commissioner Michel Barnier,

In the European Parliament, we have been closely following the work of the European Commission on notice-and-take-down requests in the online environment. Previously, some of the European Commission's projects in this area have been a cause for great concern for citizens, with CleanIT being one example of projects that have undermined citizens' trust in the Union.

Therefore we are relieved to see that it appears to us that this time your services have taken the right approach. We believe the careful investigations undertaken by your services in this field will increase the citizens' trust in our decision making processes, and will lead to remedies for real problems that many experience in their day-to-day lives^{1,2}.

However, we have been reached by disturbing news that the proposal for a directive on notice and take-down that was produced by your services may not make it to the Parliament. As elected members and representatives of the European public, this is of high concern to us. The political process will not gain legitimacy if publically elected representatives are not allowed to scrutinize and debate proposals of concern in a transparent and democratic manner.

Therefore we would like to call on you to propose the draft text as a directive for the Member States. It is not acceptable that the Parliament is kept out of these important discussions. If the indications that the directive might collapse into a mere recommendation come true – and in this way the Parliament gets no say – we fear that both the citizens' trust in European institutions as well as our trust in the European Commission may suffer.

We trust that you agree that a transparent and inclusive mechanism for political decision making is the preferred route for Europe, and we're looking forward to our further interactions.

Yours sincerely,

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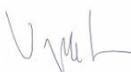
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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/e-commerce/communications/2012/index_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/e-commerce/notice-and-action/index_en.htm