

Brussels, 5 March 2019

Dear Mr Verhofstadt,
Dear ALDE Group members,

It has come to our attention that the President of the European People's party, Mr. Manfred Weber, tried to insist on an early vote on the "Copyright in the Digital Single Market" proposal, in order to move it to the upcoming plenary session next week. If this should be the case, we fear it might be as means to render the initiatives of thousands of European citizens all over Europe planned for March 23rd obsolete.

We at the European Liberal Youth – LYMEC, the voice of young liberals, find this move to be essentially exactly what the European institutions are often criticized of – deals behind closed doors and blunt disregard to the concerns and voices of European citizens.

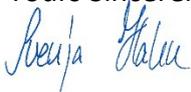
We have been very vocal in our opposition to the "Copyright in the Digital single Market" proposal as it currently stands, as keeping the Internet as our fundamental free space is a priority to the liberal-minded young people of Europe. We also believe that it is crucial to promote innovation and digital entrepreneurship, as well as to reduce over-regulation instead of creating red tape and more legal uncertainty in the digital field, especially to small digital businesses and start-ups. But this time we are not even turning to you to express our view on the report's content, rather to ask you to safeguard our citizen's right to expression.

That is why we turn to you, as the President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group, with a plea to take a stance in favour of transparency and defending the democratic principle of having all viewpoints heard, instead of fuelling the anti-EU rhetoric.

We turn to you with a plea to consider the impact on the image of the liberal family to young people, should their civic position be silenced by an early vote. This is not about the ALDE Group position on the content of the Copyright proposal, but solely about when the vote should take place.

We turn to you with a plea to vote against EPP's manoeuvres, should the question of the timing of the Copyright vote be on the agenda of Thursday's Conference of Presidents meeting!

Yours Sincerely,



Svenja Hahn
LYMEC President