



MEDIA RELEASE

Digital rights organisations plead, yet again, to be heard as TPP11 countries meet in Sydney

Canberra, 28th August 2017

Leading digital rights organisations have urged the eleven governments that remain in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) following the US withdrawal to heed their calls for a renegotiation of the deal when they meet from 28 to 30th August in Sydney, Australia.

The open letter to ministers of trade has been signed by prominent digital rights groups in TPP11 countries and globally, including Electronic Frontiers Australia, Civil Liberties Australia, Australian School Library Association, Creative Commons, Derechos Digitales (Chile and Mexico), Open Media and CIPPIC (Canada), Sinar Project (Malaysia), Hiperderecho (Peru) and many more.

The digital rights advocates warn, yet again, that the TPP that would “have serious consequences for access to knowledge, the dissemination of news and cultural exchange in our countries”. Worse, given that these provisions “were imposed by the USA and the USA is no longer in the TPP, it makes no sense for you to keep those provisions, particularly without the projected gains from access to US markets”.

The letter advises the ministers that “the only truly acceptable approach to balanced copyright provisions and to ensure access to knowledge and innovation in all TPP11 countries is to renegotiate the whole TPP”.

If the governments fail to heed their call and opt instead to suspend the most dangerous provisions of the TPP until the US re-joins, a minimum number of provisions would need to be frozen. These are rules affecting access to knowledge, cultural sharing and innovation, and the ability of foreign corporations to sue governments over copyright laws.

Internet freedom advocates also highlight the importance of balanced and flexible laws which are fundamental to the broad dissemination of knowledge, culture and education and to incentivize innovation.

The letter can be accessed at <http://bilaterals.org/?internet-freedom-and-public-34170>.

About EFA

Established in January 1994, Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA) is a national, membership-based non-profit organisation representing Internet users concerned with digital freedoms and rights.

EFA is independent of government and commerce, and is funded by membership subscriptions and donations from individuals and organisations with an altruistic interest in promoting civil liberties in the digital context. EFA members and supporters come from all parts of Australia and from diverse backgrounds.

EFA’s major objectives are to protect and promote the civil liberties of users of digital communications systems (such as the Internet) and of those affected by their use and to educate the community at large about the social, political and civil liberties issues involved in the use of digital communications systems.



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