

(Droit de réponse de Julia Reda, membre du Parlement européen)

Statement by MEP Julia Reda
« To rectify the impression created by the material circulated by Volker Rieck »

Sent to ElectronLibre on March 1st, 2019

« Mr. Rieck, who sells software to automatically detect copyright infringement, has for months actively sought to discredit and invalidate the legitimate concerns of millions of people about the Copyright Directive. In his efforts to influence the public debate, he has used a mixture of wrong, cherry-picked and misleadingly interpreted data.

His latest claim that a suspiciously large number of tweets using the hashtag #SaveYourInternet originated in Washington D.C. is simply based on faulty data: The tool he is using for this analysis, TalkWalker, erroneously identifies myself and other Brussels-based sources as tweeting from Washington. This can be confirmed within seconds using the tool: A tweet in which I posted a photo from within the chamber of the European Parliament on July 5, 2018 is listed as one of the most popular tweets from “Washington” (see attached screenshot). Clearly, this data cannot be trusted. Despite being informed about these shortcomings after Mr Rieck sent his findings to Members of the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, he nevertheless proceeded with the publication of his faulty analysis.

Meanwhile, we are receiving new worrying analysis from experts every day. Just this week, David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, identified Article 13 as “a dangerous and unfortunate approach to the genuine problem of copyright infringement, a major threat to a free and open internet”. Ulrich Kelber, Germany’s Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, warned that it would create an “oligopoly of filter providers” who would have access to all our posts and uploads.

I call on my fellow MEPs not to let false data sent to them by lobbyists distract them from the very real concerns about the law expressed by impartial experts as well as a large and growing number of their constituents. »

Julia Reda, MEP
March 1st, 2019