

## EU adopts controversial copyright reforms

● Italy, Finland, Sweden, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Poland voted against the controversial legislation. Belgium, Estonia and Slovenia abstained

Brussels, Belgium

European Union countries yesterday adopted copyright reforms championed by news publishers and the media business, but opposed by US tech giants and internet freedom activists who worry it could chill the sharing of information.

The overhaul had triggered unprecedented lobbying from supporters, and opponents like Google which makes huge profits from the advertising generated alongside the content it hosts.

Romania, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said the "balanced text" adopted by ministers meeting in Luxembourg was a "milestone" toward building the bloc's digital single market.

EU sources said Italy, Finland, Sweden, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Poland voted against the controversial legislation. Belgium, Estonia and Slovenia abstained.

But the opposition was not enough to block the overhaul.

"I am very glad that we have achieved a balanced text," said Valer Daniel Breaz, Romanian Minister for Culture and National Identity.



**The new rules ensure adequate protection for authors and artists, while opening up new possibilities for accessing and sharing copyright-protected content online throughout the European Union**

EU STATEMENT



Valer Daniel Breaz, Romanian Minister

He said the text creates "multiple opportunities for Europe's creative sectors, which will thrive and better reflect our cultural diversity and other European common values."

Breaz added it also offers the same "for the users, whose freedom of expression on internet will be consolidated."

"This is a milestone for the development of a robust and well-functioning digital single market. An EU statement said "the new rules ensure adequate protection for authors and artists, while opening up new possibilities for accessing and sharing copyright-protected content online throughout the European Union."

The culmination of a process that began in 2016, the revamp to European copyright legislation was seen urgent as it the rules had not been updated since 2001, before the birth of YouTube or Facebook.

The reform was strongly backed by artists and media companies, including Agence France-Presse, who want to secure revenue from web platforms that allow users to distribute their content.

But it was strongly opposed by internet freedom activists and by Silicon Valley, especially Google which makes huge profits from the advertising generated alongside the content it hosts.

Proponents of the law said they expected a backlash. "The entertainment lobby will not stop here, over the next two years, they will push for national implementations that ignore users' fundamental rights," tweeted Julia Reda, a German member of the European Parliament.

"It will be more important than ever for civil society to keep up the pressure in the Member States! #SaveYourInternet," she wrote.

# Trump says Boeing should overhaul 737 Max planes

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump lambasted the Boeing 737 Max plane on Monday, saying it should be improved with unspecified new features and given a new name.

The model has suffered two deadly crashes in a matter of months, the first last October in Indonesia with the death of all 189 people on board and then in Ethiopia on March 10, killing all 157 aboard.

Both accidents took place shortly after takeoff. Investigators are focusing on a system that is supposed to help the Boeing workhorse aircraft avoid stalling in flight.

"What do I know about branding, maybe nothing (but I did become President!), but if I were Boeing, I would FIX the Boeing 737 MAX, add some additional great features, & RE-BRAND the plane with a new name," Trump wrote in an early morning tweet.

"No product has suffered like this one. But again, what the hell do I know?," he added.

It is not the first time Trump has weighed in on the Ethiopian



US President Donald Trump

crash.

Two days after the plane went down, he tweeted that these days jetliners are "becoming far too complex to fly".

He added: "Pilots are no longer needed, but rather computer scientists from MIT. I see it all the time in many products. Always seeking to go one unnecessary step further, when often old and simpler is far better."

The global fleet of 737 MAX planes has been barred from flying since mid-March.

## American Airlines to cancel 115 flights daily over 737 MAX

Washington, United States

American Airlines announced Sunday it would scrap some 115 flights per day in the coming months because its fleet of Boeing 737 MAX planes is being grounded until August 19. America's leading airline had previously only planned to keep the planes out of commission until June 5, with Boeing facing intense scrutiny after 157 people died in an Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX crash on March

10 -- the second deadly crash involving the aircraft in five months.

"These 115 flights represent approximately 1.5 per cent of American's total flying each day this summer," American Airlines chairman and CEO Doug Parker said in a statement.

But he stressed his confidence in the aircraft overall.

"Based upon our ongoing work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Boeing, we are highly confident

that the MAX will be recertified prior to this time (August 19)," he said.

"By extending our cancellations through the summer, we can plan more reliably for the peak travel season and provide confidence to our customers and team members when it comes to their travel plans.

"Once the MAX is recertified, we anticipate bringing our MAX aircraft back on line as spares to supplement our operation as needed during the summer."



Mazda Motor Corporation and International Motor trading Agency discussed the next three-year business plan for Mazda in Bahrain in light of the all-new 7th generation Mazda range starting with Mazda3 to be introduced in the month of November across GCC. The meeting was held in MC HQ at Hiroshima between the senior management of Mazda and IMTA. The picture shows Adel Salman Kanoo, Managing Director, IMTA (4th from left); KN Singh, Vice President, IMTA (3rd from left).

## AAOIFI honours KFH for backing Islamic Financial Industry

TDT | Manama

AAOIFI honoured Kuwait Finance House Group (KFH) in recognition of its sponsorship of the AAOIFI 17th Annual Shari'ah Boards Conference held for two days in Bahrain.

The conference brought together several Shari'ah scholars and senior representatives from central banks, regulatory authorities, supreme Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs), accounting and auditing firms, legal firms, universities, higher learning institutions, as well as media representatives.

On behalf of Kuwait Finance House Group, Abdulhakeem Al Khayat, Managing Director and CEO of KFH-Bahrain expressed received the honorary shield. He said: "We are pleased to continue to collaborate with the AAOIFI Conference, which sets Shari'ah



Abdulhakeem Al Khayat during the honouring ceremony

Standards for Islamic Financial Institutions."

The conference shed light on vital topics related to the fu-

ture of the Islamic financial industry including: 'Importance

of Regulatory Requirement of Mandatory Adoption of Shari'ah

Standards by Islamic Financial Institutions', 'Regulatory Impediment of Obligatory Reduction of the Amount of Debt Due to Prepayment', 'Validation of Defective Contracts and its Impact on Stability of Transactions and its Modern Applications', 'Coordination Amongst Central Shari'ah Boards', 'Sukuk Listing in Global Financial Markets and Compatibility of Listing Requirements with Shari'ah Structures', 'Methods of Safeguarding Against Risks Associated with Ownership in Ijarah Muntahia Bittamleek Financing Mode'.

Established in 1991 and based in Bahrain, AAOIFI is a leading international not-for-profit organization primarily responsible for the development and issuance of standards for the global Islamic finance industry.