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Press Release:

ACTA and the Digital Economy Act Debate in London

Policy makers and legal experts will meet on December 7, 2010 in London to discuss the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Agreement (ACTA) and the new UK Digital Economy Act. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss critical issues arising from the ongoing debate within the European Parliament, TRIPS and the WTO on development of an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

ACTA is a proposed plurilateral treaty aimed to improve global standards for the enforcement of IPR, and more effectively combat trade in counterfeit and pirated goods.

The information and consultation workshop will discuss the far reaching consequences of the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the digital and criminal law context, including forfeiture and destruction of counterfeit trademark goods, the question of penalties, border measures and the scope of the ACTA agreement. In addition the growing trend of governments and agencies to engage ISP's more rigorously in the enforcement of policies dealing with IPR, security and cyber-crime will be evaluated by representatives drawn from all sides of the spectrum. This will include analysis of the UK's Digital Economy Act and the subsequent announcement by PM David Cameron of a fitness for purpose review of UK Intellectual Property Law.

A coalition of oppositionists from all over the world charges that the US -led initiative will criminalise ordinary companies and individuals, newspapers revealing a document, office workers forwarding a file and private downloaders, whistle blowers and weblog authors revealing documents in the public interest. The ACTA agreement could have an adverse effect on the right to health and access to medicines, especially in developing countries.

The workshop meeting comes at a crucial time when the ACTA participants are initiating the relevant domestic proceedings in view of the signature and the ratification of the agreement. Workshop participants include the Council of Europe Data Protection Commissioner and representatives from the EU Commission, Members of the European Parliament, OFCOM, judiciary, ISPs, academic community and the Greens/ EFA party.

The workshop is organized by the Co-Reach IPR in New Media at the Herbert Smith Conference Hall in London. CO-REACH IPR in New Media is a network of German, Dutch, Austrian and British institutions involved in promoting research co-operation with China in the area of

intellectual property rights . The workshop is organized to raise public awareness, transparency and clarify issues in the on-going debate.

Computer Law and Security Review published by Elsevier Ltd is co-hosting the event as part of its aim to position itself at the forefront of policy discussion drawing upon the high quality scholarly contributions to the journal from leading experts around the world. *Computer Law and Security Review* (www.elsevier.com/locate/clsr) , an international journal of technology law and practice edited by Prof Steve Saxby of Southampton University since 1985, provides a major platform for publication of high quality research, policy and legal analysis within the field of IT law and computer security and is available on ScienceDirect™ <http://www.sciencedirect.com/> , the world's foremost provider of electronic scientific information to more than 12 million subscribers.

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