



A legal panorama. Portrait at the Place du Luxemburg, in front of the European Parliament.

Inside the parliament, directives are debated with which the European Union tries to harmonise copyright law throughout the EU.

This picture would have been impossible to legally publish just a few months ago, because the buildings of the EU, like the design of any recent building, are under copyright. In theory, I would have needed to ask the permission of the architect before I could reproduce this photo.

Luckily, in July 2016 the Belgian parliament introduced an exception to copyright called the 'freedom of panorama', that allows the reproduction of architecture and artworks that are in public space. Some European countries, like France, still don't have this freedom. Efforts to incorporate the freedom of panorama into European law failed: lobbyists (highly present on Place du Luxembourg!) have strongly pressured the EU to leave it up to the member states whether they want to implement copyright exceptions. So much for the single market!

A legal panorama, in Legal Advice for Artists, Eric Schrijver, 2016.

Legal
Advice
for
Artists