

# EU not trying to ban photos

A PETITION circulated through **change.org** catapulted one of the most obscure corners of authors' rights into the limelight. It's headed "EU to ban holiday pics". No, no, no. This is untrue.

The petition, a classic of scare-mongering lobbying, referred to the "Reda report" and may have been inspired by two letters to the *Times*, both signed by Wikimedia/Wikipedia people. One letter appears to have misread the Reda report. As Wikipedia is wont to say: those letters require better references.

The petition wondered aloud

whether photographers would in future have to get clearance from architects before taking street scenes. But the report was merely non-binding advice from the Parliament to the Commission, which would be trumped in the UK and Ireland anyway by the "exception" to copyright allowing reasonable reproduction for the purpose of reporting "news and current affairs".

In the unlikely event that the provision protecting architects in Belgium were extended elsewhere, advertising agencies would possibly have to get clearance before using

images of the National Theatre to promote their clients. Poor dears.

More alarmingly, the Reda report's call for fair contracts for authors was watered down at the very last minute to weaken its call for fair contracts for authors. A cuddly-sounding phrase on "freedom of contract" was inserted – read "freedom for powerful corporations to impose contracts on individual creators".

Anyway, this paragraph of the Reda report fell in the European Parliament vote. The bits in it calling for fair contracts for creators survived.

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## Attention!

Any NUJ member contemplating work for Arise TV Limited should first telephone the Freelance Office on 020 7843 3706.

## New members' meeting

There's a meeting for new and recently-joined members of NUJ London Freelance Branch on **Thursday 29 October**. It's a chance to meet other people new to the Branch, and there will also be some more experienced working journalist Branch members on hand with advice and tips. The meeting's from 6pm at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1 (nearest Tube Holborn). It has to end at 8pm – turn up any time before then if you can't make it at 6.

# High court overturns copyright change

THE UK Government acted illegally by introducing a new exception to copyright law allowing private copying for personal use, as it failed to provide fair compensation for rightsholders. That was the ruling of the UK High Court on 19 July in a judicial review brought by the Musicians Union (MU), the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) and UK Music.

These organisations had welcomed a revision of the law enabling copying for "private use" but had repeatedly warned the Government of "significant harm" to the rightsholders if compensation was not included, and alerted the Government also to the fact that compensation to rightsholders is required by European law. In most European countries this is paid for by a "levy" on the

price equipment used for copying.

The High Court agreed with MU, BASCA and UK Music that the Government's case was based on "wholly inadequate evidence." Oddly enough, that was the *Freelance's* reaction to the "evidence" when it was published. The Government must now reconsider. It is likely to take its time.

• More at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1508mu.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1508mu.html)

## Trade Union Bill – bad!

THE TRADE Union Bill – the most restrictive legislation on trade unions for 30 years, is now being prepared for its second reading in Parliament.

The Bill would make it harder to strike. It specifies a percentage of the workforce that needs to vote in favour of a strike before it becomes legal. This is considerably higher than the proportion of the electorate with which the Tories won the general election. The supervisor a trade

union picket would have to give their name to the police – rather alarming given revelations about their contributions to the trade union blacklist used by construction companies.

The Trades Union Congress (TUC, of which the NUJ is a member) will hold a rally at Westminster Central Hall, Storeys Gate, London SW1H 9NH, on **Monday 2 November** and a lobby of Parliament.

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## BBC charter chat

There is a government consultation on the review of the BBC's Charter: you have until **8 October** to respond. Please do so via [gov.uk/government/consultations/bbc-charter-review-public-consultation](http://gov.uk/government/consultations/bbc-charter-review-public-consultation) and note that license-fee-payers fork out around 38p a day for the BBC, far less than a subscription to the *Sun* and probably the least bad way of paying for the broadcaster. Links are online.

## Information on Morton contracts, please

Could NUJ members who have been issued with a contract by Mortons Media Group Ltd please contacting the Freelance Office at [freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto:freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk) – we'd like to see the contract(s) and to know what title you work for – in strict confidence, naturally.

## London Freelance Salon Thursday 15 October – book now while stocks last

*SALON from p 1*

"jobs" – into a progressive portfolio of opportunities, new ideas of new work streams and how to make our careers work: and so LFB and Freelance Industrial Council proudly present London's Freelance Salon.

For our first London Freelance Salon edition the speakers are:

• Alex Wood, Editor in Chief, *The Memo* – "a new [online] publication for people curious about the future, reporting on the individuals, technology and ideas changing the world". The magazine, partly financed by advertising, commissions freelance writers on fees or retainers, and acts as an agency hiring out "inhouse" writers, sub-editors, video-makers, and designers to corporate clients.

A former freelance, Alex also played a part in establishing the online commercial success of news and listings site Tech City News.

• A trio from Byline, a crowdfunded platform for news represented at Salon by founders Daniel Tudor and Seung-yoon Lee with consultant Peter Jukes.

Their slogan is "Nothing between you and the news". In brief the model is that journalists pitch their stories online to the public who may pledge money to support their work, stage by stage. Copyright remains with the writers; Byline's commission is 15 per cent.

London Freelance Salon makes its debut on **Thursday 15 October** at NUJ HQ, Headland House, 308-312 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP (nearest station: King's Cross). Arrive at 6.30pm – the speakers are on promptly at 7pm and we close at 9pm.

There will also be a Salon in Manchester on **Friday 25 September** and there are plans for an event in Scotland. Follow [www.twitter.com/NUJSalon](https://twitter.com/NUJSalon) and return to [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1508salo.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1508salo.html) for details. You can book and pay on that page.

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