



# European Parliament Rejects Controversial New Copyright Rules - For Now

The European Parliament has voted against controversial new copyright laws that could “ban memes” or remixes that spread across the internet. The new laws force tech companies to scan through everything their users post and check whether it contains copyrighted material, and if it does have copyrighted material, it must be removed. A “link tax” would force tech companies like Google and Facebook to pay to use snippets of content on their sites. The new rules will be sent for full reconsideration and debate.

The European Parliament has voted against [an incredibly controversial new set of copyright rules that campaigners claim could “ban memes”](#).

The law will now be sent for a full reconsideration and debate inside the parliament, during which activists will try and remove the controversial Article 11 and 13.

Article 11 has been referred to by campaigners as instituting a “link tax”, by forcing tech companies like Google and Facebook to pay to use snippets of content on their own sites. Article 13 adds rules that make tech companies responsible for ensuring any copyrighted material is not spread over their platforms.

Those rules could force technology companies to scan through

everything their users post and check it doesn't include copyrighted material. If it is found, the post will be forced to be removed, which campaigners claim could destroy the kind of memes and remixes that spread across the internet.

The revamp has triggered strong criticism from Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee, net neutrality expert Tim Wu, internet pioneer Vint Cerf and others.

Copyright campaigners claim that the rules are necessary to ensure that material isn't illegally spread across the internet. Europe's broadcasters, publishers and artists including Paul McCartney backed the rules, arguing the controversial Article 13 would protect the music industry.

A total of 318 law makers voted against opening talks with EU countries based on the committee's proposal while 278 voted in favour, and 31 abstained.

In practice, the vote only delays the final decision on the rules and gives the European Parliament more time to deliberate on them. Another decision will be taken in September.

Internet activists nonetheless hailed the decision as a victory and said that the work of campaigners had helped turn them against automatic scanning of posts to ensure they abide by copyright.

"Round one of the Robo-Copyright wars is over," said Jim Killock, executive director of the Open Rights Group. "The EU Parliament has recognised that machine censorship of copyright material is not an easy and simple fix. They've heard the massive opposition, including Internet blackouts and 750,000 people petitioning them against these proposals.

"Everyone across Europe who wants this fixed will have to work hard to make sure that Parliament comes up with a sensible way

forward by September.

“We congratulate our members for their hard work, and Julia Reda, Catherine Stihler, EDRi and others who have led the fight in Europe to stop these dreadful proposals.”

[Read full article here...](#)

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## **Marxist Strategy Pits Opposing Groups Against Each Other, Results in Leftist Violence**

Far-left Marxists are sowing discord, inciting progressives into acts of violence including a leftist who was arrested outside the White House at an immigration protest last Saturday for assaulting a Secret Service officer while screaming, “Where is the President?!” A Republican building in Nebraska was defaced and a window was broken. A Berkeley Democrat threatened to chop up Rand Paul and his family with an ax. EPA chief Scott Pruitt was harassed in a restaurant. Portland protesters harassed a reporter. An angry man stole a Trump MAGA hat from a teenager and then tossed his soda on him. Many Democrats are afraid of standing up to their own party, and do not speak up against leftists’ calls for violence.

Sources:

[NBC Washington/ Secret Service](#)

[Brick thrown at Republican building window](#)

[Rand Paul death threat and arrest](#)

[Teenager assailed for wearing MAGA hat](#)



**EPA Chief Scott Pruitt  
Resigns, Citing 'Unrelenting'  
Personal Attacks on Him and**

# His Family

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chief Scott Pruitt, formerly the Attorney General of Oklahoma who sued the EPA at least 14 times for their activist agenda, rolled back multiple Obama-era climate policies since leading the EPA, has now resigned, citing personal attacks. Pruitt was harassed just a few days ago in a DC restaurant, he has faced death threats, has been demonized in the media and is the subject of 19 official investigations. Pruitt was involved in multiple scandals regarding spending taxpayer money for travel and security, his close relationships with lobbyists and industry, and allegations he used government resources and staff for personal gain.

**Trump-appointed EPA Director Scott Pruitt announced his resignation Thursday, citing unrelenting personal attacks against him and his family.**

In his resignation letter, Pruitt thanked the president for allowing him to advance the administration's agenda, but noted attacks against him were reaching unprecedented levels.

Here's Pruitt's resignation letter, via [Washington Free Beacon](#):

*Mr. President, it has been an honor to serve you in the Cabinet as Administrator of the EPA. Truly, your confidence in me has blessed me personally and enabled me to advance your agenda beyond what anyone anticipated at the beginning of your Administration. Your courage, steadfastness and resolute commitment to get results for the American people, both with regard to improved environmental outcomes as well as historical regulatory reform, is in fact occurring at an unprecedented pace and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the American people in helping achieve those ends.*

*That is why it is hard for me to advise you I am stepping*

*down as Administrator of the EPA effective as of July 6. It is extremely difficult for me to cease serving you in this role first because I count it a blessing to be serving you in any capacity, but also, because of the transformative work that is occurring. However, the unrelenting attacks on me personally, my family, are unprecedented and have taken a sizable toll on all of us.*

*My desire in service to you has always been to bless you as you make important decisions for the American people. I believe you are serving as President today because of God's providence. I believe that same providence brought me into your service. I pray as I have served you that I have blessed you and enabled you to effectively lead the American people. Thank you again Mr. President for the honor of serving you and I wish you Godspeed in all that you put your hand to.*

*Your Faithful Friend,  
Scott Pruitt*

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[Article on scandals and investigations...](#)