

Please reply to dr. Gabor Aschner
by phone: 361 319 9145
by mobile phone: 366 30 404 384
by fax: 361 319 9145 (Voice fax)
by mail: Fuerj u. 10/a
H-1124 Budapest XII.
Hungary, Europe, or
by E-Mail: quality@freemail.c3.hu

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Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC)
To the attention of the person in charge referring to the Legal Protection of Services
based on, or consisting of Conditional Access COM(97) 356 final

Fax: 32 2 735 7455

Subject: Concerns on the above mentioned proposed EU directive

Dear Madame/Sir,

I have to express my serious concerns on the following reasons

While through Satellites, Pay TV broadcasts can be watched nearly all over Europe, because for legal reasons, officially you cannot subscribe. That means, that even if you are willing to pay, you are restricted to watch the majorities of the channels, as the TV broadcaster does not have the legal right or does not have a representative in your country.

The only way, how we could exercise our personal freedom to construct decrypting devices for ourselves and using the Internet to obtain the necessary code numbers.

After a long period of time, actually nearly 4 decades, during which we could not exercise our personal freedom we thought, that from now on our life would improve from this point of view as well and we are still doing our utmost to join to the EU.

The banning of these pirate decrypting devices for commercial use, i.e. selling for money can be accepted, but why would the European Community ban the same, that individuals are making using it only for their own amusement.

On the other hand, the broadcasters have all their weaponry and resources to introduce more complicated encrypting codes and they should exercise their right to do that, rather than creating legal barriers against the technical development.

If the EU introduces restrictions like that, I just wonder whether is it a good idea for those countries that are, at least for the time being, outside the Union to make all effort to join.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Gabor S. Aschner
Ph.D., D.Sc.Eng.