

Dear Sir/ Madam,

It is difficult to determine whether Australia has the right balance between promoting competition and protecting intellectual property while considering Australia's international trade obligations. Arguably, international trade obligations should be considered in terms of future perspectives attached with Australia's intellectual property arrangements. However, the fact that technological advancements are continuous and bring new sorts of properties (such as Facebook posts, Twitter posts, YouTube videos) makes more complex the role of Australia's intellectual property arrangements.

What is more, as long as people have Internet access that clarifies that the concept of creation is there to stand and it is quite difficult to confirm whether current copyright regime is able to provide protection for end-user and online consumers. Therefore, I would like to propose to another fact to be considered in the context of Australia's intellectual property arrangements. In particular, this is open access. From my point of view open access constitutes a beneficial response to technological developments and can be seen as a means for sharing information under intellectual protection (for instance by using Creative Commons license or the European Union Public - a software licence that has been created and approved by the European Commission). Hence, incentives for creation and further elaboration are offered as well as online environments for secure trades.

Taking everything into consideration, the define feature of modern times is non-stop technological evolution and the term of 'digital age'. Given my concern with open access was introduced within preceding evolution it makes clear that there is an inevitable link between them that should be taken into account.

Yours faithfully,

Nikos Koutras