Basic information

2023/2019(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Implementation of the 2018 Geoblocking Regulation in the Digital Single Market **Subject** 2 Internal market, single market 3.30.25 International information networks and society, internet 3.45.05 Business policy, e-commerce, after-sales service, commercial distribution 3.50.15 Intellectual property, copyright 4.60.06 Consumers' economic and legal interests	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	MAZUREK Beata (ECR)	01/03/2023
	Shadow rapporteur CLUNE Deirdre (EPP) ANGEL Marc (S&D) THUN UND HOHENSTEIN Róża (Renew) VAN SPARRENTAK Kim (Greens/EFA) BUCHHEIT Markus (ID) KOULOGLOU Stelios (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CULT Culture and Education (Associated committee)	VERHEYEN Sabine (EPP)	09/02/2023
JURI Legal Affairs (Associated committee)	MELCHIOR Karen (Renew)	28/02/2023

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	BRETON Thierry

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/02/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/02/2023	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
25/10/2023	Vote in committee		
07/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0335/2023	Summary
13/12/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0473/2023	Summary
13/12/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/2019(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57_o Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	IMCO/9/11285

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE749.206	15/06/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE750.251	13/07/2023	
Committee opinion	CULT	PE746.896	18/07/2023	
Committee opinion	JURI	PE749.286	24/10/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0335/2023	07/11/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0473/2023	13/12/2023	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)220	24/06/2024	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	**Role**	**Committee**	**Date**	**Interest representatives**
ARIMONT Pascal	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	JURI	30/11/2023	ARD-Verbindungsbüro Brüssel
MAUREL Emmanuel	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	CULT	29/11/2023	Société civile des Auteurs Réalisateurs Producteurs
ALBUQUERQUE João	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	CULT	23/11/2023	EUROCINEMA, Association de producteurs de cinéma et de télévision Europa Distribution Europa International
ARIMONT Pascal	Rapporteur for opinion	JURI	21/11/2023	DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH
ARIMONT Pascal	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	JURI	18/10/2023	DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH
ANGEL Marc	Shadow rapporteur	IMCO	12/10/2023	Motion Picture Association EMEA
ANGEL Marc	Shadow rapporteur	IMCO	12/07/2023	ACT group
ARIMONT Pascal	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	JURI	12/07/2023	Eleven Sports
ARIMONT Pascal	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	JURI	10/07/2023	EBU-UER (European Broadcasting Union) ACT
ARIMONT Pascal	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	JURI	07/07/2023	EUROCINEMA, Association de producteurs de cinéma et de télévision
ALBUQUERQUE João	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	CULT	13/04/2023	Creativity Works!
ALBUQUERQUE João	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	CULT	23/03/2023	Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe

Other Members

Transparency		
Name	**Date**	**Interest representatives**
SMERIGLIO Massimiliano	12/12/2023	EUROCINEMA, Association de producteurs de cinéma et de télévision
ROTH NEVEĎALOVÁ Katarína	11/12/2023	Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe
SOKOL Tomislav	08/12/2023	the Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe (ACT)
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	07/12/2023	La Liga española de fútbol
COLIN-OESTERLÉ Nathalie	16/11/2023	EUROCINEMA, Association de producteurs de cinéma et de télévision Syndicat des producteurs indépendants
COMI Lara	15/11/2023	Anica - Associazione Nazionale Industrie Cinematografiche Audiovisive Digitali
COMI Lara	15/11/2023	European Leagues
BALLARÍN CEREZA Laura	08/11/2023	Laliga
BALLARÍN CEREZA Laura	08/11/2023	Filmin
RIBA I GINER Diana	08/11/2023	La Liga
VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián	08/11/2023	La Liga

ZARZALEJOS Javier	08/11/2023	LaLiga
COLIN-OESTERLÉ Nathalie	06/11/2023	Goodfellas / Association des exportateurs de Films / Europa International
KOVATCHEV Andrey	12/10/2023	European Leagues
GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	13/09/2023	EUROCINEMA, Association de producteurs de cinéma et de télévision
GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	13/09/2023	European and International Booksellers Federation
GOZI Sandro	29/08/2023	EFAD
GOZI Sandro	12/07/2023	The Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe

Implementation of the 2018 Geoblocking Regulation in the Digital Single Market

2023/2019(INI) - 07/11/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection adopted an own-initiative report by Beata MAZUREK (ECR, PL) on the implementation of the 2018 Geo-blocking Regulation in the Digital Single Market.

This report examines the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 302/2018 on geographical blocking since its entry into force on 3 December 2018. It aims to examine the extent to which the Regulation has led to greater integration of the internal market and, as a result, better deals for consumers and greater opportunities for businesses.

As a reminder, the overall objective of the Geo-blocking Regulation is to ensure that market players treat European customers (including consumers and other end-users) in the same way, regardless of their geographical location, nationality or place of residence.

Exploiting the potential of cross-border activities

The report acknowledged the untapped potential of cross-border economic activities and stressed that these activities could be encouraged by removing the remaining barriers concerning geographical blocking. It stressed the need for **greater consumer awareness**, given that many citizens are still unaware of the rules in force, and called for **better enforcement of measures at national level** to ensure the effectiveness of the regulation.

Members stressed the need, in the light of the **accelerated digital transition**, for a comprehensive re-evaluation of the effectiveness of the geographical blocking regulation, taking into account the changes in consumer and professional behaviour brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic (as a result of the pandemic, 12% of businesses in the EU have launched or stepped up their efforts to sell goods or services online).

Member States are urged to fully apply and enforce the Geo-blocking Regulation. Members called on the Commission to **strengthen enforcement** in order to avoid the fragmentation of the rules and to conduct a comprehensive study on the impact of the Geo-blocking Regulation on business-to-business transactions, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Complaints

The report noted that one third of all complaints received by responding competent authorities were not actually covered by the Regulation, including, among other things, copyright-protected content and insurance services, which shows that consumers perceive geo-blocking to be particularly problematic in these areas. It emphasised the importance of considering the potential benefits of **extending the scope of the regulation** to new areas.

Members suggested intensifying coordination efforts and developing strategies to address the most common grounds for complaint; emphasises the need to increase efforts put into awareness raising campaigns for both traders and consumers.

Cross-border parcel delivery

The report regretted that certain traders prohibit consumers from utilising self-collection or self-organisation delivery methods in their terms and conditions or refuse to ship products to transport companies specialising in cross-border parcel delivery, which conflicts with the principles of the Geo-blocking Regulation.

Members reiterated that traders should not hinder third party transport companies from enabling the cross-border delivery of products to consumers, particularly in instances where the trader does not provide such an option or when traders prohibit self-collection at the store. The Commission should consider including an even **more explicit reference** to such third-party parcel delivery services in the Regulation.

Similarly, further steps should be taken during the review to strengthen the right to "**passive sales**", which is in some cases undermined by selective distribution and exclusive rights agreements.

Members deplored the persistence of unjustified barriers to **online registration and payment methods**. They called on the Commission to work with Member States and stakeholders to remove these barriers and to carry out a full analysis with a view to proposing measures to do so, in accordance with the principles of the Services Directive.

Access to audiovisual services and sporting events

The report regretted that, unlike music, e-books, video games and software products and services, progress in the audiovisual market to increase the availability of content across catalogues has been limited.

The Commission and the Member States are invited to examine carefully all ways of **reducing unjustified and discriminatory barriers** linked to geographical blocking for access to audiovisual services and sporting events. Members called on the Commission to

- present to Parliament the detailed results of its dialogue with stakeholders on the possible extension of the scope of the geographical blocking regulation to audiovisual content;

- propose concrete solutions that will enable consumers, in particular citizens living in border regions or belonging to linguistic minorities, to have legal access between catalogues to various content across borders.

Keeping pace with market developments

Lastly, the report called on the Commission to continue to monitor market developments with regard to customer access to products and services in the Single Market, focusing in particular on the impact of geo-blocking practices on transport services, financial and health services and telecommunications, in particular with a view to ending the blocking of services provided by mobile operators in border regions within the Union.

Implementation of the 2018 Geoblocking Regulation in the Digital Single Market

2023/2019(INI) - 13/12/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 376 votes to 111, with 107 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the 2018 Geo-blocking Regulation in the Digital Single Market.

Revising EU rules on geo-blocking

Parliament underlined the importance of the Geo-blocking Regulation in creating a stronger, more coherent, accessible and fair internal market for all EU citizens and businesses, without discrimination or unjustified obstacles, and irrespective of their nationality or place of residence or establishment. However, further measures are needed to exploit the full potential of the Regulation, in particular by strengthening the legal framework to encourage cross-border trade in goods and services.

Given the acceleration of the digital transformation and the rise in online shopping in recent years, Members stressed the need for a **comprehensive reassessment of the effectiveness of the Geographical Blocking Regulation**, including its effectiveness, taking into account the changes in consumer and business behaviour brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic (as a result of the pandemic, 12% of businesses in the EU have started or intensified their efforts to sell goods or services online).

Member States are invited to **fully implement and enforce the Geo-blocking Regulation**, while the Commission should ensure reinforced enforcement to avoid regulatory fragmentation and conduct an in-depth study on the impact of the Regulation on cross-border transactions, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Extend the scope of the Regulation

Parliament noted that one third of all complaints received by responding competent authorities were not actually covered by the Regulation, including, among other things, **copyright-protected content** and insurance services, which shows that consumers perceive geo-blocking to be particularly problematic in these areas. It emphasised the importance of considering the potential benefits of extending the scope of the regulation to new areas.

Members suggested intensifying coordination efforts and developing strategies to address the most common grounds for complaint; emphasises the need to increase efforts put into awareness raising campaigns for both traders and consumers.

Cross-border parcel delivery

The resolution stressed that delivery limitations in cross-border online sales still affect more than 50 % of shopping attempts, frustrating consumer expectations. Members called on Commission and the Member States to take further steps to **ease the access and operations of cross-border parcel delivery services**.

Members recalled that traders should not hinder third party transport companies from enabling the cross-border delivery of products to consumers, particularly in instances where the trader does not provide such an option or when traders prohibit self-collection at the store. The Commission should: (i) assess the extent to which the identification of affordable cross-border parcel delivery services remains a problem for online sellers; (ii) consider including an even more explicit reference to such third-party parcel delivery services in the Regulation.

Online payment methods

Members deplored the fact that some unjustified obstacles persist in the case of online registration and payment methods, which may result in cross-border customers often not being able to register on websites requiring registration, or being able to pay for the requested service without presenting data such as a local address or specific national payment method, or even a national phone number, undermining the Regulation’s objective of making it possible to **‘shop like a local’**. The Commission is called on to cooperate with Member States and stakeholders to address these obstacles and to conduct a comprehensive analysis with the aim of proposing measures to eliminate them.

Access to audiovisual services and sporting events

Parliament regretted that, unlike music, e-books, video games and software products and services, progress in the audiovisual market to increase the availability of content across catalogues has been limited.

The Commission and the Member States are invited to examine carefully all ways of reducing unjustified and discriminatory barriers linked to geographical blocking for access to audiovisual services and sporting event, while taking into account the potential impact on the diversity of business models and available funding for the creative sector.

The Commission is invited to present to the Parliament the detailed results of its dialogue with stakeholders on the **possible extension of the scope of the Geo-blocking Regulation to audiovisual content**, including concrete measures and specific targets to improve the cross-border findability of audiovisual content, thereby spreading the diversity and richness of culture in Europe.

Keeping pace with market developments

Parliament called on the Commission to continue to monitor market developments with regard to customer access to products and services in the Single Market, focusing in particular on the impact of geo-blocking practices on transport services, financial and health services and telecommunications, in particular with a view to ending the blocking of services provided by mobile operators in border regions within the Union.