COM (2008) 464 – Proposal amending Directive 2006/116/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the term of protection of copyright and related rights

The purpose of this proposal is to extend the term of protection for performers and phonogram producers from 50 to 95 years. This proposal seeks to protect the livelihoods of performers whose copyrights are about to expire. Originally, it was assumed that 50 years would be long enough, but now these performers are outliving the 50 years and are at risk of losing their incomes. A consultation was held in 2004. In a report adopted by the Committee on Legal Affairs, the scope of the directive was broadened to include audiovisual performers. The European Parliament adopted a resolution that added several amendments, including: the term of protection of musical composition with words expires 70 years after the death of the last person (who meets specific requirements regarding contribution to composition) and a required report to be submitted in three years.