We need Internet Schengen to remove Geo blocking

There is no language barrier for football!

Watching Internet content across the EU and EEA is a part of daily routine for those travelling on business or pleasure. Therefore, it is very irritating when wanting to watch your favorite show away from home to get a message that the viewing is not allowed in your geographical area for one reason or the other. Sometimes the viewer is asked for his understanding, sometimes not. I, for one, have no such understanding. This is like the situation before Schengen agreement came into effect, passport and visa control at every airport or border station. Therefore, we need a new Schengen agreement for the Internet removing Geo blocking.

For the Commission removing geo blocking is an open internal market issue much revolving around copyrights. Somebody who has subscribed to Internet content in one country cannot enjoy his favorite team football match in another country. Yes, that is an internal market issue. However, the geo blocking issue is much wider than this. By being able to watch foreign shows and programs citizens of one EU country get to know languages and cultures of other countries. Get to know and understand and respect other cultures and languages is a very important sociological and political issue, particularly at times when EU members seem to be growing apart rather than together. This includes learning of other European languages by having free access to them without geo blocking. Furthermore, all languages are changing, including new words and new meaning of existing ones. Only Internet based approach without geo blocking can keep the user up to date. It is not enough to say European Cultural Diversity is the Richness of Europe; people have to be able to see and experience this richness across borders on the Internet. The Internet is a wonderful tool for people to see what the politicians are talking about when they speak of Richness and Cultural Diversity. Seeing is believing.

Another issues is, do we want to expose European Citizens to other cultures and other languages? I believe in the end the citizen has to decide for himself. And for that also we need to remove geo blocking globally. But that is a bigger issue; let us start by removing European geo blocking.

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