EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY BRANDED A SHAM - EU PATENT DEBATE REACTION

Submitted by: The Open Source Consortium

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Mark Taylor, Executive Director of the Open Source Consortium has branded the concept of European democracy a sham. This follows the adoption of the controversial proposals on software patents (the computer-implemented inventions directive) by the European Council.

He said,"..the fact that an unelected body can ride rough shod over the near unanimous wishes of an elected parliament demonstrates that any pretensions the EU has to being democratic are just that - pretensions. To many this smacks of institutionalised deference to vested interest and intrigue, some of which originate outside the EU.

"Without this law Europe has a chance to lead the World but now risks sinking into mediocrity behind areas of the world free of this kind of castration.

"This law, if it is passed, will crush the economic prospects of entrepreneurial software organizations seeking to challenge multinational proprietary interests. As such the government of Europe has shown that it is incapable of standing up to global commercial interests and incapable of handling its own consultative process.

"I would call on all stakeholders in Open Source and other affected software industries to demand and require their MEPs to re-instate democracy."

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Mark Taylor
Open Source Consortium
http://www.opensourceconsortium.org
07967 687379

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