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## **Follow-up to the anti-ACTA protests. The round table on the role of intellectual property protection in the information society in Poland**

In January 2012 Poland witnessed massive protests, both in the streets and on the Internet, opposing the ratification of the The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, which triggered a wave of strong anti-ACTA movements across Europe. It is estimated that around one hundred thousand people went to the streets of dozens of large cities and towns in Poland to show their objection, protesting for many weeks despite the extremely unfavourable weather. In Poland these protests had further far-reaching consequences, as they not only changed the initial position of the government but actually started a public debate on the role of intellectual property in the information society. Moreover, as a result of these events the Polish Ministry for Administration and Digitization launched a round table gathering various stakeholders to negotiate a potential compromise with regard to intellectual property that would satisfy conflicting interests.

The four rounds of negotiations that have taken place so far have shown that the most burning issues that interest all sides of the argument are: the clause on the private use and its application in the digital environment, question of the remuneration for the use of content material on the Internet and the problem of the application of the three step-test within the national copyright act.

The aim of this paper is to describe and discuss the most powerful proposals drafted by the experts on Polish copyright law, that have a chance of being accepted by the representatives of various stakeholders, and thus become the core of the crucial reform of copyright law in Poland, which might set example for other countries struggling with the role of intellectual property protection in the information society.

Moreover, this particular analysis of intellectual property relations in Poland will also be put in the wider context, showing how experience from the times of socialism and procedures applied in the transition period might be useful in solving contemporary problems that are common for all the European states.