

PRESS RELEASE



Stream ripping site Convert2MP3 shuts down following global settlement with recording industry

The site has agreed not to infringe the rights of record companies in the future

21st June 2019: Convert2MP3, one of the world's most-used stream-ripping sites, has ceased to operate globally, following action coordinated by IFPI and BVMI on behalf of their member record companies. The Germany-based site, which had 684 million visits from around the world over the past 12 months, has agreed to shut down, surrender its domains and not infringe the rights of record companies in the future.

After legal action was brought in Germany against Convert2MP3 for large-scale and sustained violation of record labels' copyright, a settlement was reached, including but not limited to financial compensation. The settlement required the global shutdown of Convert2MP3 and any other infringing sites owned by the operator. Additionally, the site is required to hand over the Convert2MP3 domains to IFPI and give broad undertakings not to infringe copyright or circumvent technological protection measures in relation to recorded music in future.

Previously a court in Germany granted a preliminary injunction in respect of Convert2mp3 on the basis that effective technological protection measures were circumvented via the service, and that it produced or owned software which allowed this to take place.

Frances Moore, Chief Executive, IFPI, representing the global recording industry worldwide, said: "Stream ripping is a threat to the entire music ecosystem. Sites such as Convert2MP3 show complete disregard for the rights of artists and record companies and take money away from those creating and investing in music.

"The successful outcome of this case sends a clear signal to other stream-ripping sites that they should stop their copyright infringing activities or face legal action."

Dr. Florian Drücke, Chairman & CEO BVMI, stated: "This is a great success for the digital music market. Since the music industry has transformed into a digital business it is of the utmost importance that the rights of artists and their partners are protected online. We are seeing an increasing understanding on the part of the courts and the fans that digital licensing is crucial for the creative industries and that business cases based on free riding are unacceptable."

Sites like Convert2MP3 extract an audio file from a licensed audiovisual work - usually a streamed music video - and present it to a user as a free permanent download. These

sites exploit high levels of traffic to profit from advertising but pay nothing back to artists or creators.

The action against Convert2MP3 is part of a global industry strategy to tackle these illegal sites.

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About IFPI

IFPI is the organisation that promotes the interests of the international recording industry worldwide. Its membership comprises some 1,300 major and independent companies in almost 60 countries. It also has affiliated industry national groups in 56 countries. IFPI's mission is to promote the value of recorded music, campaign for the rights of record producers and expand the commercial uses of recorded music in all markets where its members operate.

About BVMI

The Bundesverband Musikindustrie (BVMI – Federal Association of the German Music Industry) represents the interests of approximately 250 labels and music companies, which account for more than 80 percent of the German music market. The Association advocates the music industry's interests in German and European politics, and serves the public as a central point of contact for the music industry. In addition to publishing market statistics and establishing industry structures such as the B2B platform PHONONET, the BVMI portfolio also includes industry-related services. Since 1975, it has presented GOLD and PLATINUM, since 2014 also DIAMOND, to the most successful artists in Germany, since 1977 the Official German Charts have been compiled on behalf of the BVMI.