

ECIS welcomes new milestone in Microsoft case. Commission vigilance essential to ensure Microsoft compliance if competition is to be restored

Brussels, 22 October – «Today's statement by European Commissioner for Competition Neelie Kroes marks an important milestone in the Commission's efforts to address Microsoft's continuing abuse of its dominant position and ensure competition on the merits in key software markets. ECIS commends the Commission and particularly Commissioner Kroes for their diligence in pursuing this issue over the last eight years», said Thomas Vinje, ECIS Counsel.

ECIS looks forward to reviewing the agreements Microsoft has made available, and we welcome the Commission's assurances that it will ensure full compliance. It is vital that the Commission ensures compliance with its March 2004 Decision in a way that enables effective competition from open source alternatives. As the Commission indicated, licensees may raise additional issues and Microsoft has an ongoing obligation to update the information as its products evolve.

As always, it is essential that the Commission continues vigorously to monitor Microsoft's compliance particularly with respect to the completeness of the interoperability information for Vista and Windows Server 2008. The provisions allowing for private enforcement actions to complement the Commission's enforcement powers are key to ensuring the ultimate success of the Commission's 2004 Decision.

«European consumers will only benefit if Microsoft complies fully with its obligations in both letter and spirit so that real competition is finally reintroduced with respect to products subject to the Commission's March 2004 Decision», said Thomas Vinje.

About ECIS

ECIS is an international non-profit association founded in 1989 that strives to promote market conditions in the ICT sector allowing vigorous competition on the merits and a diversity of consumer choice. ECIS has actively represented its members on many issues related to interoperability and competition before European, national and international bodies, including the EU institutions and WIPO. ECIS' members include large and smaller information and communications technology hardware and software providers Adobe, Corel, IBM, Linspire, Nokia, Opera, Oracle, RealNetworks, Red Hat, and Sun Microsystems.

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