

**Statement by Thomas Vinje, Legal Counsel and Spokesman for ECIS:
ECIS Reaction to today's European Commission Decision fining Microsoft**

(The European Commission has today announced that it has fined Microsoft for its longstanding failure to implement remedies imposed by the Commission in its March 2004 Decision condemning the company for abuse of a dominant position.)

Brussels – 27 February 2008 – Today the European Commission announced its third set of fines against Microsoft as a result of Microsoft's three year failure to comply with the provisions of the March 2004 Decision. ECIS regrets that Microsoft chose to subject itself to fines rather than end its anti-competitive practices and permit merit-based competition in the marketplace.

Commissioner Kroes is to be commended for her perseverance over the last three years in the face of Microsoft's footdragging and appeals to the Court of First Instance.

Responding to continuing scrutiny by competition authorities and the September judgement by the EU's Court of First Instance, Microsoft announced last week new promises to promote interoperability with its products. As the Commission said, similar statements in the past have proven to be empty gestures with no real impact on competition and consumer choice.

In response to complaints from ECIS and others, the European Commission and other competition authorities are continuing to investigate Microsoft's ongoing anti-competitive practices regarding a range of products including Vista, Office 2007, Internet Explorer, e-mail and collaboration software and the .NET framework. For the sake of consumers, competition and innovation, we are pleased that the Commission has confirmed it will continue these investigations.

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, Nokia, Opera, Oracle, RealNetworks, Red Hat, and Sun Microsystems.

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