Microsoft paid a courtesy visit to Commissioner Reynders, 20 January 2020

Main messages were very supportive of EU’s position:

- e-evidence: support of Commission proposal, insistence on the need to have a single regime in the EU and to reach an international agreement with the US;

- data protection: in favour of the international promotion of GDPR, in particular through adequacy decisions; insisted that more pressure should be put on China also to address unfair use of data by Chinese competitors.

- AI: support for human centric approach; understanding of the need for Europe to make economic use of its high value data; insistence that Microsoft is ready to provide the cloud infrastructure for EU AI policy.

Asked about his assessment on the chances that the US adopts a Federal data protection legislation, explained that, at Federal level, Congress has other priorities and this could happen in 2021 at the earliest. He added that at State level, things were progressing more quickly: a proposal to reinforce the Californian law is being debated, and the State of Washington could adopt (before 31 March) a GDPR like legislation.

Commissioner Reynders:

- explained that the Commission is committed to find an agreement on the e-evidence proposal ASAP, and to conclude a comprehensive agreement on cross-border access to e-evidence with the US;

- confirmed that the EU will continue to proactively promote its data protection model internationally; including in plurilateral settings where the Chinese issue should preferably be addressed;

- informed that the Commission is about to launch consultations on its AI policy and Data strategy with an emphasis on a human centric approach and on the need to boost investments and competitiveness in Europe.