

To: STENGG Werner (CAB-VESTAGER); DYRSKJOT Mette (CAB-VESTAGER)
Subject: Report on the Rover platform meeting with CAB Vestager, 3
December 2021

The meeting was convened at the request of [REDACTED] **Rover (pet-sitting) platform**, [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] from Rover platform, as well as [REDACTED] **Inline Policy**, meeting with **Ms Mette Dyrskjot and Mr Werner Stengg, CAB Vestager**.

Concerned by the upcoming legislation on the working conditions in platform work, **Rover** representatives wanted to present their business model. Rover operates a website- and app-based platform for exchange of pet-sitting and dog-walking services in the neighbourhood. Founded in the USA in 2011, it is starting to expand in the EU, at the moment present in six MS. Rover platform functions as an online business directory to allow communication between pet owners and potential pet-sitters/dog-walkers, whereby all the users are free to choose their rates, schedules, client lists etc. and are free to choose their clients. Average earnings of pet-sitters through Rover site in the EU are around 300 eur/year.

Ms Dyrskjott and Mr Stengg explained that the upcoming initiative aims at establishing clarity about employment relationship between platforms and people working through them. This includes setting objective criteria to define workers with social protection rights and those that are genuinely self-employed. The Commission will also propose a guidance on situations in which self-employed should also be able to engage in collective bargaining. The initiative has been prepared through a comprehensive process of consultations with social partners, platforms and the wider public, taking into account recent court cases. The format of the directive will also allow some freedom for MS to define the criteria and implement it.

[REDACTED] was concerned about the definition and use algorithmic management as possible criteria for employment relationship. Mr Stengg explained that the initiative is aiming for transparency in the use of algorithmic management, not using it as one of the criteria. He also explained the wider context of the EU legislation regarding platforms, aiming at establishing a clear EU framework, also for external businesses.