

From: [REDACTED] (CAB-JOUROVA)
Sent: Wednesday 8 June 2022 14:15
To: [REDACTED] (CAB-JOUROVA)
Subject: Meeting with Google

Categories: Orange Category

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find below the notes of the meeting with Google.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Meeting with Google
4 May 2022 at 13:00, BERL 11/167

Participants

European Commission: Marie Frenay (Member of Cabinet of Vice-President Jourova) and [REDACTED] (trainee in the Cabinet of Vice-President Jourova).

Externals: [REDACTED] (Google).

Summary

Google met with Marie Frenay, the Member of Cabinet of Vice-President Jourova to exchange information on the respective parties' progress in the area of media freedom and pluralism.

In detail

Google wanted to give an update on agreements reached with publishers under the EU copyright rules (Art. 15). [REDACTED] They noted several MS had not transposed the Directive yet. The deals Google signs with its publishers allow for extended news previews. Marie Frenay insisted on the importance of small actors and languages. Google explained that Google News Showcase is available in languages such as CZ and SK.

Google would welcome a clear definition of a publisher as it is sometimes difficult to find out who the potential beneficiaries are. This is a practical challenge which makes it difficult for Google to design its compliance programme.

Marie Frenay introduces the media work of Vice-President Jourova and the prism she is coming from. On definitions and standards, the Commission encourages the sector to come up with solutions (self-regulation). Initiatives, such as the Journalism Trust Initiative, are supported by the Commission. She explains Google the context the Media Freedom Act emerged from and explains the Act's aim (= addressing the existing gaps by introducing safeguards on EU level). She points out that the situation in the EU MSs differs, and therefore only key principles can be laid down by the Act.

Google sees the need for the Act. It says the company would benefit from as much as clarity as possible. It also advises against a Directive which can be transposed in 27 different ways.

Marie Frenay talks briefly about EU sanctions on Russian propaganda channels in the context of the 6th package of sanctions. She explains the role of regulators in this regard and stresses the need for media literacy. This is supported by Google as well.

Regarding the Digital Services Act, she talks about the link between Art. 12 (terms and conditions) and media freedom and pluralism.

The meeting is concluded by both parties agreeing to stay in touch.