

From: [REDACTED] (CNECT)
Sent: 17 May 2018 13:03
To: CNECT F4
Subject: FW: FairSearch Europe request for a meeting

From: secretariat@fairsearcheurope.org
[<mailto:secretariat@fairsearcheurope.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 4:50 PM
To: [REDACTED] (CNECT)
Subject: FairSearch Europe request for a meeting

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
DG CONNECT
European Commission

Dear [REDACTED]

Google's anti-competitive practices have already led to the elimination of competition in video search, blog search and mapping, nearly eradicated product-price-comparison markets in Europe, and are now on their way to eliminating competition in travel search and financial price comparison. Only by restoring fair competition to the market can we stop this monopolisation of search. However, tragically, the settlement proposed by Google – its third attempt – will not achieve this objective.

After an in-depth review of Google's third package of proposed commitments, FairSearch Europe and its members – a group of European and US businesses that have come together to promote and defend competition in both the search and mobile markets – have determined that Europe is confronted with an unprecedented situation. Not only do the proposed commitments fail to redress Google's anti-trust violations as set out by Commissioner Almunia in a statement of 21 May 2012^[5], consisting in the first place of diverting search traffic away from rivals towards its own vertical (specialised) services, but they additionally require market operators to **pay** to benefit from the offered remedy via the proposed auction mechanism. The proposed

^[5] Statement of VP Almunia on the Google antitrust investigation, Brussels, 21 May 2012: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-12-372_en.htm.

commitments will increase revenues to the infringer while devastating competition, particularly in the previously thriving online travel and financial reporting sectors.

In light of the devastating consequences of the proposed commitments, and at the suggestion of [REDACTED] FairSearch Europe would welcome a meeting with you to discuss this deeply troublesome settlement proposal. Would you be available for a meeting on either of the following days and times. We generally need about an hour to review our arguments and to provide the facts about the business impact of these proposals:

- Thursday, 26 June between 9:15 and 15:00
- Friday, 27 June between 10:30 and 15:00

If these times are not convenient, I would be happy to provide alternatives.

Please note that FairSearch Europe has met with the cabinet of Commissioner Kroes and set out in detail our arguments in letters to all Commissioners.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

FairSearch Europe Secretariat

[REDACTED]

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