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Report of meeting with Facebook- 17 February 2016

Participants:

Facebook: Thomas Myrup Kristensen (Managing Director EU Affairs, Head of Office, Brussels)

Commission: [REDACTED] (SG [REDACTED])

The meeting was organised at the request of Facebook.

- The representative of Facebook presented their operations in Europe. The company is headquartered in IE with over 1000 staff. They operate a data centre in SE and are building a second one in IE. They also have an artificial intelligence lab in Paris.
- They are also running a project called 'Internet.org', which aims at bringing Internet to all citizens in the world through technologies powered by alternative energies.
- They have a strong interest in DSM issues, in particular data protection, platforms and telecoms.
- On platforms, they are of the view that it would make little sense to regulate a very diverse range of companies as one single group and are calling instead for an issue-driven approach.
- As regards copyright, they have doubts as to the added value of the planned actions in terms of promoting the DSM.
- On content moderation (400 million pictures uploaded every day), Facebook already has a well-developed content moderation system in place, based on flagging by users and quick reaction; action is then being taken according to the company's own code (community standards).
- On the fight against terrorism, the EU Internet Forum (led by DG HOME) is a useful process, which could lead to improvements. However, the main challenge is to involve also small players. Facebook is running workshops in order to raise awareness and share experience and tools with smaller players. It is also important to step up the work on counter-narratives.
- Facebook also has a dedicated portal for cooperation with law enforcement, for which the feedback is very positive.
- On notice and action, a degree of harmonisation may be useful but it very much depends on the types of requirements that would be imposed/harmonised.
- As regards the telecoms framework, they underlined the key distinctions between certain OTT services such as Facebook messenger and traditional telecoms services, which warrant completely different regulatory approaches.
- [REDACTED] took note of the positions expressed by the Facebook representative. He explained the role of the SG in the coordination of key initiatives. The DSM is now in the delivery phase and initiatives in the various areas should be adopted in the course of this year.

