



Margrethe Vestager
Executive Vice-President

Brussels, 20 April 2020
AU/lw Ares(2020) 1830537

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Microsoft BeLux:

[Redacted]

Dear Madam,
Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your suggestions on behalf [Redacted] and Microsoft for actions that could support the EC Coronavirus Response Team. We will consider these suggestions.

The coronavirus crisis is affecting us all. The job is first and foremost to save human lives. Many Member States have chosen to close their borders, health systems are strained, and companies face tremendous challenges. This is putting the Single Market, our labour force and the economy as a whole under strain. We will all need a functioning Single Market to restore the economy after the health crisis. So it has been important to act swiftly.



In addition to the many other possibilities that already exist under EU State aid rules, the Commission has adopted a temporary framework to enable Member States to use the full flexibility provided under State aid rules to support the economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The aim is to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the crisis. You can check our latest updates here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/home/en?keywords=&dotyp=853>.

At the same time, this is an unprecedented time in our recent history when digital technologies have been a world-wide solution to keep the education going, to allow many businesses and administrations to continue their activities, to provide food and other needed supplies to the millions of Europeans contained in their homes. We learned from this crisis that with digitisation we can stay connected, be more efficient, greener and include the most isolated. This can only happen thanks to the immense efforts done by those who work in this sector and who keep the infrastructure going.

The strategic role of digitisation is undoubted. This is the reason for which the recovery of our economy must be strongly built on bringing digital technologies to every citizen in the EU.

Thank you for your efforts. I am certain that by uniting forces, we will succeed in overcoming this challenge.

Yours sincerely,

