


Minutes of meeting between Cabinet Bieńkowska and Facebook on 12 June 2017

Subject: Digital Single Market

Participants

Thomas Myrup Kristensen	Managing Director EU Affairs Head of Office, Brussels
Kristian Hedberg	Deputy Head of Cabinet Bieńkowska
Fabrice Comptour	Member of Cabinet Bieńkowska
	DG GROW/E3

I. Draft German Network Enforcement Act

Mr Myrup Kristensen raised the issue of the draft German Network Enforcement Act, which aims at ensuring that criminal content (such as hate speech) is removed by social network operators. Mr Myrup Kristensen expressed his strong concerns with the draft law. He argued that the German draft law does not comply with EU legislation, e.g. the eCommerce Directive. He also questioned the potential impact on freedom of expression, considering the measure draconian and the fines very severe. He underlined the importance of a dialogue with the German authorities to change the law.

Mr Hedberg informed that the Commission is assessing the draft law notified by Germany with a deadline for comments by 28 June.

Mr Myrup Kristensen mentioned that Facebook has been in touch with Commissioners Ansip and Jourova. He also reported that Facebook has worked closely, and invested a lot of resources, with DG JUST for self-regulatory initiatives on hate speech.

II. DSM mid-term review

Mr Myrup Kristensen considered the mid-term review balanced and in general Facebook is pleased with the DSM. He noted that Facebook is a strong supporter of the internal market and harmonisation. With regard to data, he was of the opinion that data is nothing you pay for with Facebook as at any time you can close your account and get the data back. Concerning platforms, Facebook is generally pleased with the Commission's approach; with regard to platforms and B2B, Facebook has limited interest.

Mr Myrup Kristensen also informed that Facebook is investing in AI to help better understand users and to deal with fake news.

