

# DIGITALEUROPE concerned about U.S. attitudes towards European data in Supreme Court hearing

Brussels, 28 February 2018

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February 28 2018 (Brussels) - Yesterday the U.S. Supreme Court heard the case U.S. v Microsoft in which DIGITALEUROPE intervened with an amicus brief on behalf of its membership along with trade associations representing German (BITKOM) and French (Syntec Numerique and Tech In France) industry.

As the transcript from the Supreme Court hearing shows, the Supreme Court Justices asked a number of pointed questions and directly mentioned amicus briefs submitted from Europe. DIGITALEUROPE noted with particular surprise comments made by the Deputy Solicitor General at the Court hearing, who said that "[t]here is not an international problem here. This is largely a mirage that Microsoft is seeking to create".

DIGITALEUROPE couldn't disagree more and the big number of other amicus parties, including industry, governments, academics and digital rights groups, raising concerns about the extraterritorial reach of U.S. authorities speaks for itself.

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE responds:

'DIGITALEUROPE wants to make it clear that accessing data in Europe of European citizens is taken very seriously in the EU for both the private and public sectors alike. A U.S. government official making statements to the contrary, is not reflecting the facts. What we need sooner rather than later is a new EU-U.S. agreement, which protects the rights of European citizens and companies, while enabling law enforcement to do their job effectively.'

'The EU has consistently demonstrated vigilance when it comes to protecting the fundamental rights of Europeans and ensuring that the right safe guards are in place to protect Europeans' data against government interference. The EU's GDPR protects data hosted in Europe from direct access by law enforcement from third countries, so do national laws in Europe. This is a big concern.'

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## ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total 25,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by 60 corporate members and 37 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

## DIGITALEUROPE MEMBERSHIP

### Corporate Members

Adobe, Airbus, Amazon, AMD, Apple, Bose, Brother, Canon, Cisco, Dell, Dropbox, Epson, Ericsson, Fujitsu, Google, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Hitachi, HP Inc., Huawei, IBM, Intel, JVC Kenwood Group, Konica Minolta, Kyocera, Lenovo, Lexmark, LG Electronics, Loewe, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Motorola Solutions, MSD Europe Inc., NEC, Nokia, Nvidia Ltd., Océ, Oki, Oracle, Panasonic Europe, Philips, Pioneer, Qualcomm, Ricoh Europe PLC, Samsung, SAP, SAS, Schneider Electric, Sharp Electronics, Siemens, Sony, Swatch Group, Tata Consultancy Services, Technicolor, Texas Instruments, Toshiba, TP Vision, VMware, Western Digital, Xerox, Zebra Technologies.

### National Trade Associations

**Austria:** IOÖ

**Belarus:** INFOPARK

**Belgium:** AGORIA

**Bulgaria:** BAIT

**Croatia:** Croatian Chamber of Economy

**Cyprus:** CITEA

**Denmark:** DI Digital, IT-BRANCHEN

**Estonia:** ITL

**Finland:** TIF

**France:** AFNUM, Syntec Numérique, Tech in France

**Germany:** BITKOM, ZVEI

**Greece:** SEPE

**Hungary:** IVSZ

**Ireland:** TECHNOLOGY IRELAND

**Italy:** Anitec-Assinform

**Lithuania:** INFOBALT

**Netherlands:** Nederland ICT, FIAR

**Poland:** KIGEIT, PIIT, ZIPSEE

**Portugal:** AGEFE

**Romania:** ANIS, APDETIC

**Slovakia:** ITAS

**Slovenia:** GZS

**Spain:** AMETIC

**Sweden:** Foreningen Teknikföretagen i Sverige, IT&Telekomföretagen

**Switzerland:** SWICO

**Turkey:** Digital Turkey Platform, ECID

**Ukraine:** IT UKRAINE

**United Kingdom:** techUK