



*Big Data individual rights and enforcement*

*Closing remarks at EDPS-BEUC Joint Conference*

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It's been a long day but we have been rewarded with high level and informed discussions.

Thank you to all of you speakers and participants for being part of it.

We have covered many diverse topics.

I hope that you can agree with me that our discussions have indicated a big appetite for understanding technology, market power and individual rights

We will produce a report of these discussions [on our blog] in the coming days.

I think I draw three general conclusions from today.

First, unlike two years ago when we launched this debate, there is a consensus: a consensus that the areas of competition, consumer

protection and data protection are not separate, exclusive branches of law.

Second, there are big problems in the digital market. Trust is low. And this lack of trust is justified.

There are abuses by powerful companies. There is a lack of choice. More and more data is being collected, without your knowledge, and the data is feeding algorithms which put you in categories which you cannot challenge. And the question is therefore: who should deal with these problems?

Third, more dialogue between the regulators is needed. 'Soft cooperation', as Alec Burnside referred to it.

So as you all know, we have made some recommendations in our new opinion

We have recommended changing how we approach big data mergers, so that we are much more vigilant about the longer term effects on the consumer.

We have recommended that the EU invest in technologies which enable people to avoid tracking and to have more control over their online experience.

And we have of course recommended setting up a digital clearing house.

There is a lot of good will, but there is still no mechanism for cross sectoral dialogue.

We want to help respond to this need.

- A clearing house is basically about bringing people together. It should help authorities decide the best jurisdiction to pursue a case, avoid overlap.

It could look at the longer-term implications of a tech merger

It could determine whether a dominant company is abusing its power or whether it is not a concern for competition authorities but rather for consumer or data protection authorities

It could Spot opportunities for joint work

We respect jurisdictional boundaries and the resource pressures of public regulators. We want to help them work more effective

So tThis will have a modest beginning. We will share contact details, and have a forum for discussion. Already several authorities - for example we have interest already from Belgium, Ireland, Poland, Italy, HUnghary and Norway

We count also on the support of the Commission and FTC

Like all Italians, I love words, lots of words. And today we have had lots of words.

But All the best presentations and conferences end with a call to action.

So here is a call to action from BEUC and the EDPS . please join and help deepen the awareness of what is happening in these markets, and how we can tackle and prevent the risks of massive market power combined with big data.

Thank you, and have a safe journey home.