



September 10, 2013

Mr. Joaquin Almunia
Vice President of the European Commission
and Commissioner for Competition
DG Competition
rue Joseph II / Jozef II straat 70
1000 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Dear Vice President Almunia:

I am writing on behalf of Consumer Watchdog, a U.S. public interest group, to call upon the Commission to issue a "Statement of Objections" in your antitrust investigation of Google. We understand that Google has submitted yet another round of proposals that they claim are designed to answer the Commission's well-founded concerns about Google's illegal, unfair and anticompetitive business practices.

If Google's executives were genuinely interested in settling the case in a way that benefits consumers, they would have made their proposals public. This latest so-called settlement offer is nothing more than an attempt to run out the clock on an investigation that has dragged on for nearly three years.

As was documented in the "market test" of Google's settlement offer made last April, the supposed remedies offered then by the Internet giant would in fact have continued to harm consumer welfare, stifled innovation and restricted competition in Internet search services.

Google has a long history of stalling and delaying serious and necessary efforts to regulate its business activities, while claiming to work with the authorities. Based on that record, we cannot believe the latest offer is anything more than an attempt to obfuscate and delay.

The problem with allowing Google to continue this process is that we are not talking about hypothetical economic issues. Rather, Google's ongoing business practices that take unfair advantage of its monopolistic position are damaging competitors and consumers in the real world. Three years is more than enough time to understand what Google has been doing that is illegal and to understand that their "settlement proposals" are nothing more than delaying tactics. We urge the Commission to issue a Statement of Objections immediately. It is the only way that Google will engage in a serious effort to settle the case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Simpson".

John M. Simpson
Privacy Project Director