



French competition chief will look with interest at Russian Google settlement – St Gallen ICF

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The president of the French competition authority – Autorité de la Concurrence – said in St Gallen today (28 April) that the agency would look with interest at commitments Google [NASDAQ:GOOGL] had offered in Russia.

Isabelle de Silva said her agency considered the actions of many authorities in an international perspective, citing the example of the commitment decision by Google in Russia.

“We will look at it with interest,” de Silva said in the context of a debate on increased cooperation between agencies in the digital sphere.

De Silva was on a panel which united the heads of the national competition authorities of France, the UK, Belgium, Switzerland and Lithuania, at the International Competition Law Forum in the Swiss town of St Gallen.

“We are of course also in a period where we are waiting for the Google cases to come out in the European Commission. That will be an important event for digital matters as a whole,” she said.

On 23 May 2016, France’s competition authority opened a sector inquiry into online advertising and the market power of online businesses.

As part of that, the Autorité said it would analyse the market power of different online firms and examine the strengths and strategies of companies like Google and Facebook [NASDAQ:FB], as well as advertising agencies and data providers.

De Silva did not specify that it was in this context that the Google settlement in Russia would be considered.

The Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) announced on 18 April that it reached a settlement with Google before a Moscow Court.

The settlement ended a court battle over the agency’s 2015 decision, finding the company had abused its dominant position by insisting that smartphone manufacturers using its Android operating system unfairly gave prominence to Google apps.

One of the original FAS orders for Google to unbundle its Playstore app from a suite of other Google apps was left out of the settlement, as reported.

A lawyer familiar with the case previously told *PaRR* that Google is likely to offer similar commitments in a European Commission (EC) Android investigation as it did in the Russian probe.

by Simon Van Dorpe in St Gallen



Sector: TMT
Topics: Abuse Of Dominance/Single Conduct, Agencies

Grade: Confirmed

Companies
Alphabet Inc (Parent Of Google Inc Among Others)

Agencies
Russian Competition Authority (FAS)
French Competition Authority - Autorité De La Concurrence
European Commission

There are no files associated with this Intelligence

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