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Dear Mr Anderson,

**Subject : Competition Policy, Microsoft, and 'Trusted Computing'**

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 13 May 2003 and the very interesting article that accompanied it.

I share your concerns regarding a possible future utilisation of the Trusted Computing platform to lock users in and criminalise otherwise perfectly legal means to compete.

These are issues that lie at the heart of our enforcement policies in this area, not only within the scope of the European competition rules, but also in areas concerned by the proposed EU Directive on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights and, as you mention in your article, the Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment.

It is also my view that firms should not be allowed to abuse security or intellectual property arguments to circumvent competition policy objectives.

You are most welcome to contact Mr Cecilio Madero, Head of the Information Industries and Consumer Electronics Unit in DG Competition (tel. +32 2 29 60949, fax +32 2 29 69809) to discuss your concerns. Mr Madero and his colleagues are currently investigating a number of the issues you touch upon and would be available to meet with you or your representative at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



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