THREE STRIKES

On May 13, 2009, following a lengthy, comprehensive investigation, the European Commission ruled that Intel is an illegal monopoly. As Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes explained: “Intel has harmed millions of European consumers by deliberately acting to keep competitors out of the market for computer chips for many years.”*

Antitrust agencies in Korea, Japan and now Europe have all concluded that Intel engaged in a global pattern of illegal tactics that have harmed consumers and customers. Specifically, the EU found that Intel “gave wholly or partially hidden rebates to computer manufacturers on condition that they bought all, or almost all, their x86 CPUs from Intel” and “Intel made direct payments to computer manufacturers to halt or delay the launch of specific products containing competitors’ x86 CPUs.”

Intel’s actions have kept prices artificially high and have slowed innovation. In the midst of a severe global recession, it’s more important than ever that consumers not be forced to pay an illegal “Intel tax.”

For three decades, the CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, open networks, and full, fair, and open competition, fighting against monopoly abuse. Our member companies vary widely in size, operating both domestically and globally. They include Intel’s customers, suppliers, competitors and many other firms that depend on a vibrant and competitive microprocessing industry.

We commend the European Commission for its steadfast pursuit of competition policy that benefits consumers and incentivizes innovation.

Intel must now answer the question — will it decide to compete fairly? Or are three strikes still not enough?

Learn more at www.ccianet.org

European Commission Press Release, May 13, 2009

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OPEN MARKETS,
OPEN SYSTEMS, OPEN NETWORKS
FULL, FAIR, AND OPEN COMPETITION