

## News Release

### For Immediate Release

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### Statement of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) On Today's Judgment by the European Court of First Instance

*Washington, DC (September 17, 2007)* – Following today's judgment by the Court of First Instance (CFI) in Luxembourg, confirming in large part the conclusions of the European Commission in March 2004 that Microsoft violated competition laws, Ken Wasch, President of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), issued the following statement:

"Today's judgment by the European appeals court is a victory for innovators and consumers everywhere. With this action, the only option left for Microsoft is to immediately cooperate and fulfill the requirements of the March 2004 Decision."

More than three years ago, the Commission found through an open and transparent process that Microsoft had abused its dominant position. Almost three years ago, the European Court of First Instance rejected Microsoft's request to have the Decision suspended pending resolution of its appeal.

"After one of the most thorough investigations in the history of competition law, spanning over 7 years, the Commission has taken a steady and decisive course. We applaud the leadership and persistence of the European Commission, Commissioner Kroes, former Commissioner Monti and their officials," Wasch continued.

With many leaders in the software industry as members, SIIA has sought a balanced and fair approach to restoring competition in this important area. Wasch said: "From the beginning, the requirements facing Microsoft were clear. Implementing the Decision is important to the software industry. We hope that, with this essential step, that this will be forthcoming promptly and effectively."

Today's judgment follows actions in Korea, where Microsoft lost an appeal to delay implementation of remedies imposed by competition authorities, and in the U.S., where frustration with Microsoft's implementation of the American settlement resulted in a revamping of the program and an extension of some of its key elements. It also confirms that, since the 1970s, the Commission has consistently and appropriately applied European antitrust law in IT markets to ensure fair competition based on interoperability

### About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 750 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit [www.siiia.net](http://www.siiia.net).

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