

Digital companies demand new Google anti-trust probe

May 15 2014



The Open Internet Project, which includes 400 players in Europe's digital markets, lodged a complaint with the European Commission against what it alleges are new anti-competitive abuses by Google

The Open Internet Project, which includes 400 players in Europe's digital markets, lodged a complaint with the European Commission on Thursday against what it alleges are new anti-competitive abuses by Google

In a submission, the group accused the US Internet giant of abusing its "insurmountable" 90 percent market share to abuse competitors and illegally using data to squeeze out rivals.

"European Consumers and Digital Entrepreneurs demand (a) ban of Google's manipulative favouring of own services and content," said a statement from the group, which includes digital publishers Axel Springer and CCM Benchmark, online publishers, tour operators, and consumer associations.

The world's top Internet search engine reached a deal with EU in February in which it agreed to display rivals' links more prominently in a bid to end a three-year case and avoid a fine of up to 5.0 billion euros.

"This has been a very long and very thorough investigation," Google executive Kent Walker said about the agreement.

But rivals, including companies included in the OIP, argue that the concessions do not go far enough and will only entrench Google's dominance of online market.

"The European Commission ... is planning to give in to the giant by concluding a settlement largely behind closed doors that would in principle legalise Google's self-preference," said the statement.

They are demanding a thorough analysis of all Google's anti-competitive practices, impose a review mechanism for algorithm changes and impose obligations on Google to supply or licence its data, among other elements.

The new complaint comes after the European Union's top court said that individuals had the right to ask the search engine to delete personal data produced by its ubiquitous [search engine](#).

Some analysts say the ruling raises questions about online censorship and manipulation of [search](#) results.

© 2014 AFP

Citation: Digital companies demand new Google anti-trust probe (2014, May 15) retrieved 23 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-05-digital-companies-demand-google-anti-trust.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.