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FOSS PATENTS

THIS BLOG COVERS SOFTWARE PATENT NEWS AND ISSUES WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON WIRELESS, MOBILE DEVICES (SMARTPHONES, TABLET COMPUTERS).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Fair Standards Alliance welcomes [EU Competition Commissioner] Vestager's comments on patent licensing

This here is a first for this blog: it's the first time I publish a complete press release without any my own commentary of my own. I don't know if and when I'll do so again, so please don't urge me to publish your press releases :-). In this case, the factual information contained in it is worth sharing, and I simply share the organization's perspective on this. I reported on the creation of the Fair Standards Alliance last year.

PRESS RELEASE: Fair Standards Alliance welcomes Vestager's comments on patent licensing

BRUSSELS, 5 February 2016 – The Fair Standards Alliance (FSA) welcomes European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager's statement that companies that have committed to license their standards-essential patents (SEPs) on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms must be kept to that promise.

"We are delighted to see the Commissioner giving such a clear message that companies simply must license patents on the FRAND terms that they have committed to. This is very much in line with our view that something must be done about unfair and unreasonable SEP licensing practices," FSA chairman Robert Pocknell said.

In a speech to [the College of Europe's Global Competition Law Centre](#) on 1 February, the Commissioner also said guidelines can "be a more efficient way than cases to provide guidance and legal certainty," adding that formulating appropriate guidelines is much easier on the basis of the resolution of cases, and noting that the Commission's decisions in Motorola and Samsung as well as the European Court of Justice decision in the Huawei case have removed a lot of uncertainty.

The FSA's Pocknell said the Alliance would be pleased to constructively support further efforts to establish fair licensing conditions for SEPs, and will continue offering perspectives and recommendations on these matters.

The Europe-based association believes that unfair and unreasonable

SEP licensing practices pose a significant risk to the innovation ecosystem. The failure to abide by the FRAND commitment, existing in most standardisation licensing, creates barriers to entry for new market entrants, threatens to stifle the full potential for economic growth across major industry sectors, and ultimately harms consumer choice.

FSA's member companies, who hold more than 160,000 patents and spend more than 32 billion euros per year on R&D and innovation, include: BMW, Cisco, Dell, Fairphone, HP, Intel, ip.aces, Juniper Networks, Lenovo, Micromax, peiker acustic, Sierra Wireless, Telit, ublox and Volkswagen.

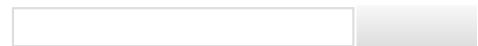
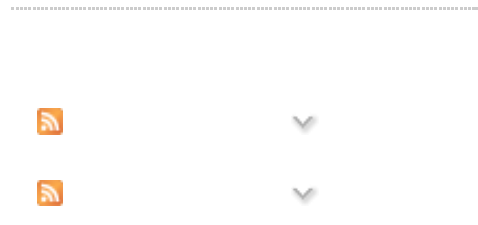
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ABOUT ME



FLORIAN MUELLER

Florian Mueller used to be an award-winning intellectual property activist. His 30 years of software industry expertise span different market segments (games, education, productivity and infrastructure software), diverse business models, and technical and

commercial areas of responsibility. In recent years, Florian advised a diversity of clients on the patent wars surrounding mobile devices, and on their economic and technical implications. (In order to avoid conflicts of interest, Florian does not hold or initiate transactions in any technology stocks or derivatives thereof, except that he is long AAPL.) He is now developing games for smartphones and tablet computers.

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