The total amount of the contracts between the Commission and Microsoft covering the corporate software infrastructure and associated services is about EUR 6.23 million per year (approximately 186 EUR per user per year, of which 150 EUR for the licences), which enable the entire Commission staff to use a large set of Microsoft end-user products on any corporate device and to run the associated server software products as well as a range of infrastructure management solutions, identity management solutions and development tools. These contracts are also applicable to a very large number of EU Institutions and Agencies, including the European Parliament.

As regards the second question, it is worth underlining that when the Commission talks about use of legacy systems this is not specifically related to Microsoft products. Apart from very few potential exceptions, all Microsoft software is under active maintenance and no Windows XP machines are used. With respect to Microsoft support, the above-mentioned contracts provide the Commission with direct links to support teams through onsite engineers and a dedicated Technical Account Manager. The Commission also gets prior notification of patches that will be made available.

Concerning the third question, no IT system is 100% secure and thus totally impenetrable to any form of malicious attack. However, the Commission works to systematically ensure that only vendor-supported software is in use and that any discovered vulnerabilities are patched as quickly as possible by obtaining and applying the relevant updates/patches.