

EN
E-001933/2019
Answer given by Ms Vestager
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.7.2019)

The Commission's recent Google antitrust and Facebook merger investigations (the Commission is not aware of any Microsoft Bing competition investigation to which the Honourable Member refers) were conducted according to a rigorous and objective analysis of the extensive sets of evidence obtained. No considerations of the type referred to by the Honourable Member either arose or were taken into account.

As regards the fines imposed for the three Google prohibition Decisions of 2017, 2018 and 2019, these were set based on the criteria outlined in the Commission's fining guidelines for antitrust cases¹, which, in particular, take into account the gravity and duration of the relevant abuses with reference to the products concerned. As regards the fine imposed on Facebook in 2017 for the provision of misleading information in a merger procedure, the Commission took into consideration all factors set out in the EU Merger Regulation² based on the nature, gravity and duration of the infringement as well as the general principles of EU law applicable to the setting of administrative fines.

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52006XC0901\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52006XC0901(01)&from=EN)

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32004R0139>