

**Question for written answer E-000019/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Brussels giving Microsoft the green light

Some 60 000 mergers occurred around the world in 2021. The Commission in Brussels is supposed to combat cartels but has not prevented a single merger from going through since 2019.

Despite the fact that foreign giants (Google, Microsoft, Facebook, etc.) already completely dominate the digital market, on 21 December 2021 the Commission approved the acquisition of Nuance by Microsoft for USD 20 billion.

During the negotiations on the Digital Markets Act (DMA), the Commission once again said that it would rein in Big Tech but it has yet to act upon those words. The UK competition authority, on the other hand, which has been independent since Brexit, just last month ordered Meta (Facebook) to sell Giphy and is stalling the Microsoft/Nuance deal.

Many doctors use the Nuance software to make diagnoses. The French Government already caused outrage with its decision regarding the country's health data hub, and now Microsoft will be gaining another means of access to the private health data of French and European citizens.

1. With the Commission continuing to allow Microsoft, Facebook and the like to buy up companies, how can a digital giant ever be established in Europe?
2. Why is the Commission allowing foreign companies to handle health data in this sovereign area?