

Summary of the reality check workshop on the revision of the Technology Transfer Block Exemption Regulation and Guidelines

Wednesday, 12 November 2025, online

Participants

More than 80 stakeholders participated in the workshop, including representatives of businesses and business associations in various sectors, including telecommunications, electronics and automotive, law firms, in-house lawyers, academics and representatives of EU national competition authorities.

Introduction

In the context of the Impact Assessment phase of the Commission's [revision](#) of the Technology Transfer Block Exemption Regulation ('TTBER') and the accompanying Technology Transfer Guidelines ('Guidelines'), which provide rules and guidance for assessing technology transfer agreements under EU competition law, the Directorate General for Competition ('DG Competition') organised an online reality check workshop to gather stakeholder views on the expected practical impacts of certain areas of the draft revised TTBER and Guidelines that were published for consultation between 11 September and 23 October 2025. Participants were invited to comment on practical implications of some of the key proposed changes in the draft revised texts, with a view to ensuring that the changes are well targeted and will deliver the intended benefits. The workshop addressed the following three areas of the draft revised texts.

Session 1 – Technology pools

Participants exchanged views on proposed adjustments to certain conditions of the existing soft safe harbour for technology pools in the Guidelines, in particular regarding the scope and essentiality of the technology rights included in the pool. The discussions focussed on licensees' requirements regarding the disclosure of information on the pooled technology rights and the existing best-practices of pools.

Session 2 – Licensing Negotiation Groups (LNGs)

This session focused on the draft new guidance and soft safe harbour for the competition law assessment of LNGs, namely arrangements under which technology implementers join together to negotiate licensing terms with technology owners. Participants discussed the definition of relevant markets, the factors that may distinguish genuine LNGs from buyer cartels, the possible pro- and anti-competitive effects of LNGs, and certain conditions of the proposed soft safe harbour for LNGs.

Session 3 – Data licensing agreements

Participants considered the draft new guidance on data licensing, including the application of the TTBER to various types of data.

Conclusions and next steps

DG Competition acknowledged the very valuable discussions. The insights collected, alongside all the feedback and evidence collected in the context of the Impact Assessment, will feed directly into the finalisation of the revised TTBER and Guidelines.

Additional information and background on the revision process are available on the [Commission's dedicated webpage](#).