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VIA E-MAIL

Vice-President Viviane Reding  
European Commission Vice-President in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship  
BE-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Dear Vice-President Reding:

Thank you for your recent invitation to the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) to provide input to the European Commission’s review of the Safe Harbor Framework. I regret that we were unable to meet when you recently visited the FTC, as I was in Europe at that time, but I am glad you had the opportunity to meet with my colleagues, Commissioner Julie Brill and Bureau of Consumer Protection Director Jessica Rich, as well as FTC staff.

While in Brussels, I had the honor of addressing the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue, which, as you know, brings together EU and U.S. consumer groups with EU and U.S. government representatives. In my remarks to TACD, I reaffirmed the FTC’s commitment to vigilant enforcement of Safe Harbor and my view that Safe Harbor continues to be “an effective and functioning tool for the protection of the privacy of EU citizens’ data transferred to the United States.”<sup>1</sup>

The FTC shares with our European counterparts a strong commitment to protecting consumer privacy. We have been dedicated to developing privacy frameworks that are globally interoperable and implementing mechanisms that achieve this goal. This is the imperative with which we approach the work we do relative to the Safe Harbor program.

I appreciate the supportive and constructive spirit in which you have discussed Safe Harbor with us. I welcome the valuable suggestions you have made to improve the operation of the Safe Harbor program and enclose a document that FTC staff has prepared in response to your suggestions. As the FTC is responsible for enforcement of the Safe Harbor, staff’s letter focuses principally on your enforcement-related suggestions. My staff has also conferred with our

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<sup>1</sup> “Protecting Consumers and Competition in a New Era of Transatlantic Trade,” Oct. 29, 2013, *available at* <http://www.ftc.gov/speeches/ramirez/131029tacdremarks.pdf>.

colleagues at the U.S. Department of Commerce on constructive ways in which both organizations can continue to improve the implementation and administration of the Safe Harbor program.

I look forward to an ongoing dialogue about Safe Harbor. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Edith Ramirez  
Chairwoman

Enclosure