

We will all suffer from policies that punish innovation

By Anne Jensen

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From Ms Anne Jensen.

Sir, Jon A. Hall of Linux argues (Letters, November 18) that European companies should not be alarmed by a recent decision by the European Commission that threatens to obliterate Microsoft trade secrets representing millions of dollars of research and development investment, since few of them are ever likely to find themselves in Microsoft's shoes. This line of argument is surely a dangerous call to inaction. Not only is any company with a 30-40 per cent market share potentially vulnerable to Brussels' new approach, but also - and more importantly - we are all likely to suffer the effects of a European competition policy that punishes innovative and successful companies.

The European Union, already struggling to reach the Lisbon Agenda goals to become the world's leading knowledge economy, simply cannot afford to treat assets that are the very foundation of the knowledge economy in the cavalier manner that characterises this latest Brussels edict. Mr Hall's suggestion that we can all go back to sleep seems to me to be criminally complacent.

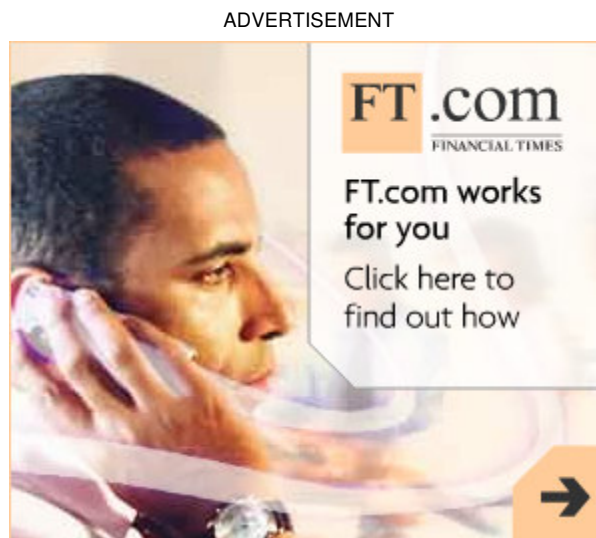
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