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Polytechniupoli Zografou, 9 Iroon Polytechniou str., Zografou, 15780, Tel: +302102209380

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Athens, April 22nd, 2020

Protocol Number 261/DS

**TO:** European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Ms Mariya Gabriel

**SUBJECT:** Open Licenses for Hackathon Projects

Dear Ms Gabriel,

With the outbreak of the pandemic of COVID- 19, we see more and more governments and public administrations hosting virtual Hackathons, in an attempt to find solutions and tools that will help tackle the crisis and break the chain of COVID-19 infections.

As a non profit organisation that advocates for Open Technologies and collaboration, [GFOSS - Open Technologies Alliance](#), supports and participates in many of these initiatives, however in order to make sure that the results of these hackathons can be used globally and adapted locally we strongly recommend that the outcomes of these Hackathons should be published under an Open/Free Software licence. More specifically we recommend [EUPL](#) for the source code of any solutions and [Creative Commons](#) for the content.

At the moment we noticed that at the [EUvsVirus](#) initiated by the European Commission, there is no mention about the license of the solutions at all. We strongly believe that in a time when humanity needs to work together to find solutions for a crisis, global problems require global solutions. Therefore, we cannot afford to reinvent the wheel again for software that helps us tackle the spread of COVID-19. Open/Free licenses will enable global cooperation and the sharing of the solutions in any country through localization. Any proprietary solutions will inevitably lead to countless isolated solutions and waste energy and time which we as humanity

cannot afford in such a critical situation.

Last but not least, we also recommend that the source code of the solutions developed in Hackathons should be available in a public repository and hosted in [Joinup](#), since Joinup has been developed and operated by the European Commission.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Spinellis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Chairman of the BoD

Diomidis Spinellis

GFOSS - Open Technologies Alliance is an [associate member](#) of [FSFE](#), who has also expressed [similar concerns](#) about the unlicensed solutions produced from Hackathons.