

Brussels, 22 October 2021
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Open Letter to the European Commission on Amazon's unchecked and destructive power

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Executive Vice-President Vestager,
Dear Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis,
Dear Commissioner Breton,
Dear Commissioner Schmit,

Last week, Reuters News Agency published disturbing revelations in an article entitled [Amazon copied products and rigged search results to promote its own brands, documents show](#). It reported that the e-commerce corporation used internal data to replicate products of other companies.

Your Commission has taken action to protect a level playing field of competition from Amazon's maneuvers. As further revelations of the scale of Amazon's operations to undermine that level playing field surface, further action is needed to ensure it is held accountable at every turn.

In the USA, the House Judiciary Committee [have written](#) to Amazon's top executives accusing them of either misleading Congress or possibly lying about the company's use of data to unfairly advantage Amazon's private label products. We believe Europe must not lag behind any other region in protecting its citizens. Indeed, the European Union should be in the lead.

Using privileged data to develop its own knock-off products and rigging internet search results to promote its own brands, as reported by Reuters, are serious issues that the European Commission should look into to continue holding tech giants accountable.

That is why, UNI Europa, representing 7 million service workers throughout the continent, is calling on the European Commission to broaden the scope of its Amazon antitrust investigation to find out if the company has engaged in similarly damaging behaviour within the European Union.

Accusations against Amazon for anti-competitive behaviour are not new. Recently, the company received a [record €746 million fine](#) from Luxembourg's data protection authority (CNPD) and is currently [facing antitrust charges](#) in Europe, the United States and India.

In recent years, and especially since the beginning of the pandemic, Amazon has amassed unparalleled influence over commerce, and it presents an unprecedented threat to the European social model. Not only do its business practices undermine collective bargaining and decimate high streets, but these new revelations suggest that the company is also willing to break the law to continue expanding its market share.

We believe an EU investigation is a necessary step to [rebalance](#) a European marketplace that has been thrown out of alignment by Amazon. Not only is Amazon undermining fair competition but it is also attempting to impose its conflictual labour model and undermine workers' collective bargaining rights. So when Amazon cuts decent employers out of the market through these unfair practices, it is also an attack on European workers and their chance at a fair share of the wealth they create.

In Europe, we have laws to protect all of us - not just the rich and powerful. The European Union must ensure they are fully committed to truly disincentivising Amazon's destructive behaviour.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Roethig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Oliver Roethig
Regional Secretary