

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

[HELPMYSQL.ORG](http://www.helpmysql.org) CAMPAIGN AGAINST ORACLE'S PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF SUN'S MYSQL

LOOKS PAST THE EU, NOW FOCUSES ON CHINA AND RUSSIA

Online petition in 20 languages now has more than 30,000 signatures -- "The European Commission showed courage and competence during most of the investigation but looked very weak in the end" -- "China and Russia are powerful, self-confident and open-source-friendly countries and they have every right to do a better job on this than the EU" -- Russian antitrust authority extended its review and asked for input from interested parties

Brussels, Belgium, 18 January 2010 -- Oracle may stand to win a key battle in the EU but still has not won the worldwide war over its takeover of Sun and, in particular, the open source database MySQL. The [helpmysql.org](http://www.helpmysql.org) campaign, recently launched by MySQL's creator and founder, Michael 'Monty' Widenius and already counting more than 30,000 registered supporters (<http://www.helpmysql.org/en/stats>), now looks past the EU process and sets its sights on China and Russia. These countries could still block the deal unless Oracle commits to formal and appropriate remedies.

Widenius believes that the European Commission "may clear the acquisition any moment" and harshly criticizes the process: "The EC showed courage and competence during most of the investigation but looked very weak in the end.

Mislabeled Oracle's statements related to MySQL as a solution is a dishonest attempt to save face because if an Oracle press release with uselessly vague promises should be all that came out of this effort, it was a waste of time and money. They asked us and others for information that wasn't going to matter in the end. We met with the EC on the 7th and the only point they had in favor of clearance was that Sun is in trouble and they'd have to consider that circumstance. That is no argument at all under competition law because Oracle could have divested MySQL and acquired the rest of Sun anytime. Should Oracle get MySQL unconditionally, then I can only say that as a European I am ashamed of our regulatory system."

But Widenius has not given up yet: "China and Russia can still say No unless there's a real solution in place. They are powerful, self-confident and open-source-friendly countries and they have every right and opportunity to do a better job on this than the EU. Russia just decided to take more time for this review and China proved in the Panasonic-Sanyo case that it stood its ground even after a deal had been cleared by the US and the EU."

Oracle still has not obtained clearance from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), and the Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) announced at the end of last week that it had extended the deadline for its review and encouraged interested third parties to provide information on the anticompetitive implications of the deal:

http://www.fas.gov.ru/merger/notifications/a_28550.shtml

The [helpmysql.org](http://www.helpmysql.org) campaign already has more than 600 supporters in China and more than 800 in Russia, almost double the number it had a week before. The campaign will now work closely with its local supporters in order to support the work of the competition authorities in those two countries and will step up its efforts to collect signatures from local MySQL users. The campaign also continues to gather support in all other parts of the world since the database market is a worldwide market for purposes of competition law.

Antitrust law in general and merger control in particular are relatively new fields in China and Russia, but the size of those markets and their enormous growth potential

require global players such as Oracle to ensure that their acquisitions comply with the applicable laws and regulations.

About the helpmysql.org campaign

Launched on December 28, 2009 by Michael 'Monty' Widenius, MySQL's creator and founder, the helpmysql.org campaign quickly gathered support from around the globe. On January 4, 2010, the first 14,000 signatures were delivered to competition authorities in Europe and Asia. By the time of this press release, the campaign already counted more than twice as many (more than 30,000) supporters.

The petition text asks "competition authorities around the world to block Oracle's acquisition of Sun" unless one of the solutions that the signatories of the petition can select is put in place. Those possibilities include a divestiture of MySQL to a suitable third party, a so-called "linking exception", and releasing MySQL (all past versions and the ones released over the next three years) under the Apache Software License 2.0, an open source license.

The petition states that Oracle's recent MySQL-related promises "can at best have a transitional effect (if any) but cannot ensure true innovation related to MySQL and safeguard MySQL as a major competitive force." The petition expresses the belief that "Oracle, if it acquired Sun's MySQL, would a fundamental conflict of interests between MySQL (and its different editions and storage engines) on the one hand and Oracle's high-priced products on the other hand." The text also highlights "the fundamental importance of databases to the knowledge-based economy".

The campaign is available in the following 20 languages (in alphabetical order): Chinese, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, and Swedish. It has a Facebook group named "Save MySQL from Oracle" with more than 4,000 members and can be followed on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/helpmysql>).

About Michael 'Monty' Widenius and Monty Program Ab

Michael 'Monty' Widenius is the creator of MySQL, the world's most popular open source database. In 2001, he founded the namesake company that was acquired by Sun Microsystems in 2008 for a total consideration of approximately US\$1 billion. The European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EVCA) named this transaction the "European Venture Capital Deal of the Year 2008". On a previous occasion, Widenius had been named the Finnish Software Entrepreneur of the Year 2003.

In 2009, Widenius left Sun and created a new company, Monty Program Ab, based in Tuusula (Helsinki area), Finland. Monty Program Ab develops MariaDB and the Maria database storage engine and other MySQL-related technologies. The company is a founding member of the Open Database Alliance.

Monty Program Ab corporate website: <http://askmonty.org>