



# Qwant

## Qwant sends on open letter to the Attorney General of the United States

**Neuilly-sur-Seine, Novembre 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – As part of the ongoing proceedings against Google, Qwant, the ethical and European search engine, wrote to the Attorney General of the United States of America, William P. Barr. In an open letter, Qwant draws his attention to the widespread unfair commercial practices of Google in both the United States and Europe.

### A new procedure issued by the Attorney General of the United States

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a complaint against Google LLC. The institution believes that Google is not complying with the US antitrust law, is abusing its dominant position and is thus undermining competition law and the quality of the offer offered to consumers. This unprecedented lawsuit is proving to be a real turning point.

Qwant is confident that efforts to understand and combat Google's exclusionary practices can make a real difference for consumers in the U.S. and abroad. This proceeding is in addition to the European Commission's proceedings and reinforces its 2018 decision to condemn Google's abuse of its dominant position.

**Jean-Claude Ghinozzi**, CEO of Qwant comments: **"Google's product innovations brought to the general search market is undeniable and no one questions their technological capacity. However, Google was able to make its merits known to the public and gain market share because the incumbent competitors were not abusing their own dominance at the time. Today, Google is abusing its dominant position to prevent competition from developing. A search engine market share of more than 90% in Europe is no longer acceptable. Competition is desired and desirable in a free and open internet."**

### Alternative search engines are moving in

The American DuckDuckGo, the French Lilo and Qwant, the Czech Seznam and the German Ecosia have recently referred the matter to the European Commission to protest against Google's commercial practices, which they consider unfair. Indeed, the five search engines are dissatisfied with the auction mechanism put in place in 2019 by Google to be proposed as a default search engine when configuring a new phone or tablet sold in Europe.

In order to select the three competitors that will be proposed alongside it, Google organizes quarterly auctions by country, during which the participants compete to define the price to be paid to the American firm for each user who will select them. But for the five companies, this auction system, Google's response to its 2018 fine of 4.34 billion euros by the EU, does not solve the problem of "abuse of dominant position" but, on the contrary, only deepens it.

**Jean-Claude Ghinozzi, CEO of Qwant adds: "Despite the great interest shown by our commercial and industrial partners who believe that our reputation for user privacy and web neutrality can**

**add significant value to their products, our attempts to secure distribution agreements for smartphones with Qwant pre-installed as a search engine have been postponed due to the disincentives of the Android and Google Apps licensing system. Once again, if our ultra-connected modern world needs powerful players that cannot be ignored, we also need to offer users credible and differentiating alternatives. Qwant is one of them. And if everyone plays by the rules, it's now possible."**

### **About Qwant**

Designed and developed in France, Qwant is the first European search engine to have its own web indexing technology, which protects the privacy of its users by refusing any tracking device for advertising purposes. Unlike the main search engines on the market, Qwant does not install any cookies on the user's browser, does not try to find out who he is or what he does, and does not keep a history of the requests made. With a warm interface that leaves plenty of room for results, Qwant allows you to efficiently find the information you are looking for across the web and social networks, while respecting total neutrality. Qwant processes all indexed sites and services without discrimination, without modifying the order of results according to its own interests or the user's sensitivities.

<https://www.qwant.com>

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