



OpenForum Europe are pleased to invite you to a breakfast seminar on:

## **“BEING OPEN ABOUT STANDARDS?”**

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**8:00 – 10.30 am**

**Hotel Conrad**

**Avenue Louise 71, 1050 Brussels**

*The development of computers, electronic communications networks and the internet at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a rise in the importance of interoperability between equipment used, between services provided, and between data exchanged. Even where interoperability is less important, standards can help to achieve substantial economies of scale for common components.*

*So standards, whether developed by firms or by standards bodies, are vital to drive innovation. But standards can sometimes be a threat to innovation. When should we standardize? When should proprietary technology be included in standards, and when should it be avoided? If proprietary technology is included in standards, what conditions should be imposed? If de facto standards emerge through the market, when, if ever, should competition law or regulation intervene? Should purchasers – whether public or private – take active steps to avoid being locked-in to closed standards?*

- 8:00      **Guest registration**, croissants and coffee available
- 8:30      Welcome Statement from **Graham Taylor**, Open Forum Europe
- 8:35      Introduction by **Bruno Lasserre**, President of the French Conseil de la Concurrence (confirmed)
- 8:55      Keynote address: Commissioner **Neelie Kroes**, European Commissioner for Competition Policy (confirmed)
- 9:20      Panel discussion followed by Q&A
- **Christian Ude**, Mayor of Munich (confirmed)
  - Prof. Dietmar Harhoff, INNO-tec - Institute for Innovation Research, Technology Management and Entrepreneurship, Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich (TBC)
  - **Piia Nora Kauppi**, Member of the European Parliament (confirmed)
- 10:30      Closing

*We would be pleased if you could join us at this event. Please RSVP before Thursday, 5 June to Dominik Olewinski, [events@openforumeurope.org](mailto:events@openforumeurope.org), Tel: +32(0)2 235 8608, Fax: +32(0)2 235 8610. Due to the limited number of seat available, registrations will be confirmed. We invite you to visit our website for further details and for future updates to the programme: [www.openforumeurope.org](http://www.openforumeurope.org)*