

**From:** Ciaran Conlon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 7:25 PM

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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Microsoft meeting with Commissioner Hogan (suggested 24th January)

Hi [REDACTED]

Greetings from my new perch in Microsoft out in Leopardstown....hope all is well in Brussels? I'm a frequent visitor now so getting to know the highways and byways a bit at this stage – with some help from a very informed local...

I'm not sure if the Commissioner mentioned to you but I met with him over the weekend down in Kildare and he suggested a meeting with Microsoft in Brussels for himself and some senior officials in different DGs – to be decided – to discuss and explore ways in which Microsoft and its technology can help the Commission and the Commissioner deliver some of their strategic ambitions in the coming years. We touched on AirBand, a Microsoft backed and enabled technology, that allows broadband services to be delivered to remote rural areas using the 'white space' on the TV broadcasting spectrum. This is a programme that has been piloted in 12 States in the US, will be rolled out to double that shortly and is ready for wider pilot projects in other jurisdictions.

The Commissioner mentioned the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> of January as being an ideal window to visit our offices at 51 Montoyer, with a more complete agenda to be developed when we confirm availability.

I am confident that the work Microsoft are doing and the technologies we are developing can support the important work that the Commissioner and the Commission are doing.

In particular we note the ambitions around;

- Rural development and jobs – the inclusion of the 'broader rural economy' in CAP reforms is particularly striking,
- Energy efficiency in the agriculture sector, and
- Ambitious climate change targets for 20130 and beyond

Microsoft would be delighted to discuss these, and other issues of interest (AI, cybersecurity, digital skills etc), with the Commissioner and his colleagues on the 24<sup>th</sup> and are happy to work with his office to develop a bespoke programme around these or related matters.

At this point I wonder can you confirm the Commissioner's availability for the 24<sup>th</sup> and the possible time allocation we might plan for if the 24<sup>th</sup> is confirmed? If you can do that I will follow up to manage the event and the programme of topics we will cover.

All the best [REDACTED] – and hope to see you on my next visit...