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Press Report

## US Supreme Court<sup>[SEP]</sup> Serious verdict is imminent

**Regensburg, January 26, 2018** – The US Supreme Court is expected to issue a landmark ruling in February deciding whether to allow US authorities to have direct access to personally identifiable information held by US companies outside the US. The pending decision concerns a lawsuit with Microsoft. Investigators are asking the company to provide data stored in data centers within the EU (01.26.2018).

If global data access were to be accepted, "in the field of data protection, this would be equivalent to declaring war on Europe," warns Alexander Zeyss, CFO and Managing Director of DRACOON, a German provider of encrypted file sharing solutions. "Presumably, the American way of 'Big Brother is Watching You Everywhere' would mean the end of the use of American cloud services for European companies, as they would be in conflict with European law."

In an open letter, 38 European industrial and digital associations, including Bitkom and the Central Association of the Electrical and Electronics Industry (ZVEI), are approaching the US Supreme Court warning of the consequences of complying with the US government's request. It draws attention to the importance of international organizations respecting legal situations in other states, and that cross-border law enforcement actions have mutual legal assistance agreements.