



## Press Release

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### **Self-Regulatory Programme for Online Behavioural Advertising Delivers Across Europe**

**Brussels, 27 January 2014:** – The European Interactive Digital Advertising Alliance (EDAA) has today published its inaugural annual report for 2013, highlighting the pan-European self-regulatory initiative to provide consumers with greater transparency and control over digital ads based upon previous browsing activity - Online Behavioural Advertising (OBA).

The EDAA report provides an overview of the Programme and its rollout to-date, as well as the EDAA's priorities for 2014. It demonstrates the significant investment advertising businesses are making to give European consumers more control. With the support of the entire EU advertising sector, the EDAA's report encourages businesses to get involved and comply.

Key highlights of the 2013 report include:

- ❖ Company awareness and uptake of the initiative is increasing: the EU programme now covers the vast majority of the market(s).
- ❖ Visibility of the icon in or around ads and on web pages is growing at an exponential rate: over 120 billion icons delivered in 2013 through EDAA's Approved Icon Providers (Evidon & TRUSTe). Transparency and control for all European consumers is only a click away.
- ❖ The pan-European Consumer Choice Platform at [www.youronlinechoices.eu](http://www.youronlinechoices.eu) is now live in 30 markets (and 26 different languages), including Croatia, the newest EU Member State. The site now has an optimised mobile version and consumers using the Firefox and Chrome web browsers can use a browser plugin to better preserve their choices.

- ❖ Many businesses are now demonstrating full compliance via the EDAA's trust seal provided via independent Certification Providers (ABC, BPA Worldwide, ePrivacyconsult and TRUSTe).
- ❖ The pan-European consumer awareness campaign has been rolled-out in the UK, Ireland and Germany to raise consumers' awareness of the icon, and what it means. These markets have benefited from strong industry support (including donated inventory) and substantial consumer engagement. The campaign will continue to expand across other European markets in 2014.
- ❖ National advertising Self-Regulatory Organisations have extended their remit to handle consumer complaints in seven EU markets to-date, with more to follow in 2014. Any consumer complaints will be handled in a consistent way, recognising the pan-European context of the initiative.

In a nutshell, the self-regulatory programme is consistently delivering on industry commitments to empower consumers across Europe.

The programme has evolved in constant dialogue with the European Commission, and Director-General Robert Madelin (DG Connect) has spoken of his appreciation of the industry's efforts and achievements to-date: *"it is always a pleasure, and a source of confidence, to see fast and dedicated follow-up to a high-profile business initiative in a crucial sector. I look forward to continuing cooperation between all interested parties."*

Nick Stringer, Chair of the EDAA and Director of Regulatory Affairs at the Internet Advertising Bureau UK (IAB UK), added: *"This inaugural EDAA report demonstrates that digital businesses are investing in ways to give consumers greater transparency and control over their data. Privacy is becoming a competing factor and those businesses that choose to show leadership now will benefit commercially in the longer run."*

**ENDS**

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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**ABOUT THE EDAA**

The European Interactive Digital Advertising Alliance (EDAA) is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels and is responsible for enacting key aspects of the self-regulatory initiative for Online Behavioural Advertising (OBA) across Europe. EDAA principally acts as the central licensing body for the OBA Icon and provides technical means for consumers to exercise transparency and control over OBA through the [www.youronlinechoices.eu](http://www.youronlinechoices.eu) Consumer Choice Platform. EDAA is governed by EU-level organisations which make up the value chain of OBA within Europe and acts to ensure European consistency in approach. More information can be found at: [www.edaa.eu](http://www.edaa.eu).

#### **ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PRINCIPLES FOR OBA**

The Self Regulatory Principles for Online Behavioural Advertising have been developed by a cross-industry effort at European level, with EASA's (European Advertising Standards Alliance) [Best Practice Recommendation on OBA](#) building on the IAB Europe (Interactive Advertising Bureau Europe) [OBA Framework](#).

An essential role regarding compliance with these Principles is played by the national Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) and IABs. Companies should be aware of the national SROs where they operate, a list and contact details of which can be found on EASA's website: [www.easa-alliance.org](http://www.easa-alliance.org).