





players globally have more choice to play their favorite games.”

In the United States, the 2 FTC had argued the acquisition deal would hurt consumers whether they played video games on consoles or had subscriptions because 2 Microsoft would have an incentive to shut out rivals like Sony Group.

However, Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley ruled on 11 June: 2 “The FTC has not shown it is likely to succeed on its assertion the combined firm will probably pull Call 2 of Duty from Sony PlayStation, or that its ownership of Activision content will substantially lessen competition in the video game 2 library subscription and cloud gaming markets.”

To address the FTC’s concerns, Microsoft had agreed to license Call of Duty to rivals, 2 including a 10-year contract with Nintendo, contingent on the merger closing.

On Sunday, Microsoft did not disclose the duration of the 2 agreement with Sony.

“From Day One of this acquisition, we’ve been committed to addressing the concerns of regulators, platform and game 2 developers, and consumers,” said Microsoft’s president, Brad Smith, in a tweet. “Even after we cross the finish line for this 2 deal’s approval, we will remain focused on ensuring that Call of Duty remains available on more platforms and for more 2 consumers than ever before.”

Microsoft has a deadline of 18 July to complete the transaction with Activision Blizzard although both companies 2 could choose to extend that deadline.

Regulators in the EU had approved the takeover deal in May, a move that drew 2 immediate protest from the UK counterpart, the Competition and Markets Authority, which had blocked the deal in April. However, the 2 CMA said on 11 June that it was prepared to negotiate with Microsoft over the deal.

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