

Digital Markets Act (“DMA”): with only 50 days to the compliance deadline, businesses express concerns about the lack of effective engagement of the designated DMA gatekeepers and urge them to enter into a constructive dialogue to ensure full DMA compliance as from 7 March 2024.

The DMA was adopted by the European Union to put an end to unfair practices by companies that act as gatekeepers in the online platform economy. It defines a series of obligations that gatekeepers need to respect, including prohibiting gatekeepers from engaging in certain behaviours.

The DMA will affect how millions of consumers and business users interact with social networks, app stores, online shopping, video sharing services, mobile phones, personal messaging services, online search engines, etc. It will constitute a paradigm shift in digital markets, with one fundamental objective: the creation of fair and contestable digital markets in Europe. It should put an end to anticompetitive practices that led to higher prices for consumers and slowed innovation in Europe.

The European Commission has so far designated six gatekeepers for twenty-two core platform services under the DMA (further designations may take place). These gatekeepers are Apple, Google, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, and Byte Dance (TikTok). They must comply with the obligations set out in the DMA as from 7 March 2024.



























The European Commission and the European Parliament have called upon these gatekeepers to submit draft compliance solutions well ahead of the March 2024 deadline to allow for the consultation of business users and consumers. More than four months have passed since the designations, and only 50 days remain until 7 March 2024, but gatekeepers have either failed to engage in a dialogue with third parties or have presented solutions failing short of compliance with the DMA. Businesses and consumers are largely kept in the dark as to what is going to happen after 7 March 2024.

March 2024 is the beginning of a new era, in which gatekeepers, regulators, business users and consumer associations will have to cooperate to make the DMA a regulatory success story. It would be regrettable if that new era began with a false start, which will happen if the gatekeepers do not constructively engage with third parties, including business users and consumer associations, before 7 March on how they intend to comply with the DMA.

The signatories of this letter represent thousands of businesses affected by the DMA. They urge the gatekeepers to engage as soon as possible with business users and other stakeholders, such as business and consumer associations, in a constructive dialogue and make swift progress on their proposed compliance solutions. They also urge the European Commission and the European Parliament to use all within their power to ensure that the gatekeepers comply with both the letter and spirit of the DMA, starting from 7 March 2024.

Signatories (in alphabetical order)

<i>Companies</i>			
Adevinta		Allegro	
Billiger		CENEO	
Compare Group		Ecosia	

Element		FAVI	
Heureka Group		Idealo	
Kelkoo		Ladenzeile	
Le Guide.com		OLX	
Open-Xchange		Panther Holding GmbH	
preis.de		Prisjakt	
Proton		Qwant	
Runnea		Schibsted	
solute		Vipps	
Associations/Coalitions/Organisations			
Coalition for App Fairness		Coalition for Competitive Digital Markets	
European DIGITAL SME Alliance		European Publishers Council	
European Tech Alliance		eu travel tech	
iconomy		Internet Economy Foundation	
News Media Europe	