

Ms Ursula von Der Leyen
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1040 Bruxelles

Brussels, 27 November 2024

Dear President von der Leyen,

On behalf of eu travel tech, the European association of travel technology companies, I extend my sincerest congratulations on your reappointment as President of the European Commission. Your leadership during the previous term has been instrumental in guiding the EU through complex challenges, and your renewed mandate presents a vital opportunity to build on the achievements made thus far. Continuity in your leadership will be crucial to maintaining the momentum and ensuring that the EU continues to lead on key strategic fronts, particularly in the digital realm.

The accomplishments of the previous Commission have indeed set a strong foundation in the digital space. Legislative advances, such as the Digital Markets Act (DMA), exemplify Europe's ambition to confront and address the evolving challenges posed by digital markets where anti-competitive behavior by certain dominant players has hindered innovation and stifled competition. This ambition was clearly demonstrated through the Commission's commitment to enforcing compliance, as seen with the non-compliance investigations initiated in March and June 2024. These actions sent a strong message that the EU is serious about upholding fair market practices.

One significant investigation currently underway is the one involving Alphabet and its continued breach of the DMA's prohibition on self-preferencing. Despite its clear obligations under the DMA, Alphabet has persisted in leveraging its search engine, Google Search—which processes over 90% of all internet searches—to prioritize, promote and give an unfair advantage to its own vertical services, such as those related to travel and shopping. This conduct not only expands further Google's dominance instead of opening up the market, it also undermines consumer choice and impedes competitors' ability to innovate and grow. It is worth noting that this practice has been a focal point of one of the Commission's most significant antitrust cases, culminating in a recent and resounding victory in the European Court of Justice.

We now urge the Commission to complete this essential task by demonstrating its unwavering commitment to holding Google accountable for non-compliance. Seven months have passed since the initiation of the investigation into Alphabet, yet no preliminary findings have been issued despite the evident non-compliant behaviour by Google. We are concerned that the European Commission currently does not have sufficient resources to enforce the law effectively and in a timely manner. Prioritizing this matter, including ensuring that appropriate resources are devoted to it, is imperative, as the competitiveness but also fairness of the entire internet ecosystem depend on it.

We have full confidence that the new Commission under your leadership will not only sustain but reinforce the EU's position as a global leader in ensuring fair digital markets.

We look forward to witnessing the impactful work that the new Commission will accomplish under your stewardship.

Yours sincerely,

Emmanuel Mounier
eu travel tech Secretary General

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About eu travel tech

Formerly known as European Technology and Travel Services Association (ETTSA), [eu travel tech](#) was established in 2009 as a dedicated organization to represent and promote the interests of travel technology companies in the EU. We work collaboratively with industry stakeholders and policymakers towards the common goal of fostering a consumer-driven, innovative, and competitive travel and tourism industry that embraces digitization, transparency, and sustainability.