

Question for written answer E-003802/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Digital Markets Act delaying innovative translation via headphones

The Digital Markets Act (DMA) was presented as a tool to improve competition and consumer choice¹. However, recent developments suggest it may have the opposite effect. Apple has publicly announced that new functions such as real-time translation delivered via its AirPods will not be available to EU users at the same time as they are released to users in other regions².

The company attributes this to DMA obligations requiring interoperability with third-party devices before features can be offered to its own customers. As a result, consumers in the EU risk receiving innovative services later, or not at all, while legal uncertainty further discourages investment in new products.

In the light of this:

1. How does the Commission respond to concerns that the DMA is delaying access for EU consumers to innovations such as real-time translation via headphones?
2. What steps are being taken to ensure that the DMA does not create excessive bureaucracy that undermines innovation and competitiveness?
3. How will the Commission monitor and address the risk of EU users increasingly falling behind other global markets in accessing digital innovations?

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¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/digital-markets-act-ensuring-fair-and-open-digital-markets_en.

² <https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2025/09/the-digital-markets-acts-impacts-on-eu-users/>.