

Question for written answer E-001534/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Catherine Griset (PfE)

Subject: Google's verification of Android developers: are we coming to the end of open-source software on our mobile phones?

From September 2026, all Android apps will be subject to prior registration and verification of the developer's identity at Google, even when the app will not be distributed by the Google Play Store.

Developers will have to provide an identity document, proof of address (for private individuals) or business identification documents, and make a one-off payment of USD 25.

Users will nevertheless be able to install an app from an unverified developer, by going through an 'Advanced Flow' process that discourages installation:

- manual activation of development options;
- compulsory restart of telephone;
- 24-hour safety period for finalising installation;
- final authentication by PIN or biometrics after that period.

This control boosts user protection against malware and fraud, but at the cost of subjugating open-source software to Google.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider this verification policy to be in line with competition rules, given that Google is strengthening its position as gatekeeper on the mobile market?
2. Does this policy not risk allowing some Member States to block applications that are otherwise legal within the EU?

Submitted: 15.4.2026