

**Question for written answer E-002718/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Andreas Schwab (PPE)

Subject: Alliance for Open Media

The Alliance for Open Media (AOM) brings together the world's biggest tech companies, including five that are gatekeepers under the Digital Markets Act (DMA), to develop audio/video technologies outside the recognised standards bodies, without safeguards relating to fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) conduct.

AOM sets the price of innovation at zero: all users must contribute their patents royalty-free. Moreover, several AOM members leverage their platforms to mandate third-party adoption of AOM technologies in consumer markets.

The AOM structure undercuts existing media standards and removes the incentive to engage in independent European audio/video research and development. Ultimately, the model threatens Europe's wider FRAND-dependent innovation base.

A 2022 Commission preliminary review closed without a merits decision; AOM's behaviour has increased since.

1. Will the Commission assess AOM under Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, including the mandatory free licence, members' coordinated imposition of AOM technologies on third parties, and efforts to tip the market to AOM technologies?
2. Are gatekeepers' mandates to use proprietary AOM formats with their platforms consistent with their interoperability and self-preferencing obligations under the DMA?
3. How does the Commission assess the long-term effects of the AOM model on European innovation and competition, and will it protect established standardisation processes (often created at European standards development organisations) from displacement by closed, proprietary consortia?

Submitted: 1.7.2026