

**Question for written answer E-003432/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Per Clausen (The Left)

Subject: Google's forthcoming Android lockdown for independent app developers

At a time when the focus is on both Europe's digital sovereignty and the need for innovation, both are threatened by what many describe as Google's de facto lockdown of the Android system for independent app developers¹ (including, potentially, European public authorities).

Among other things, these changes mean all developers – even those who do not distribute their programmes via Google's tools, or who create apps for their own use – MUST register with Google and pay a fee to the company.

Moreover, these changes mean that phones running on a system that was marketed as open will no longer be open; instead, Google will have ultimate control and the ability to lock down applications and decide what people are allowed to install on their own devices.

In light of the above, could the European Commission answer the following questions:

1. Google's plans can only harm innovation and competition in the app market, so what steps will the Commission take in response?
2. If Google can lock down public applications, does the Commission not consider this to be a potential security risk?

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¹ <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2026/03/with-developer-verification-googles-apple-envy-threatens-to-dismantle-androids-open-legacy/>.