

EN

E-003802/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.11.2025)

The Digital Markets Act (DMA) regulates only a very limited number of designated gatekeepers - large platforms with significant influence on the EU internal market and its users.

The DMA does not prevent any gatekeeper from releasing new product features. The EU is an attractive market of 450 million potential users, and it is up to the gatekeepers to evaluate their business cases. Some gatekeepers may strategically delay interoperability with features in their operating systems to limit competition and choice, and collaterally affect the availability of some services for EU users. Interoperability is essential for European companies and startups to compete fairly and bring innovation to consumers.

The DMA seeks to ensure that gatekeepers do not misuse their position by withholding interoperability from innovative companies. Many of these innovators are small and medium sized companies, who need effective interoperability with the hardware and software features of the gatekeepers' operating systems to bring their innovations to the market. The Commission adopted in March 2025 two decisions specifying how Apple should allow interoperability between its iPhones and connected devices of third parties and how it should structure the process for third party developers to request interoperability¹.

Apple has now decided to launch the Live Translation on AirPods in the EU, just two months after their initial decision to withhold the product. This follows additional engineering work to give access to third parties to building blocks to develop similar innovative features based on their own technology that also work in the same way with iPhones. Although Apple decided not to do this at the same time as they did in the rest of the world, it was worth the wait, as this move opens competition, letting other earbud makers offer their own translation service to iPhone users. The Commission will review the final details of the interoperability solution to ensure full compliance with the DMA, but it is a positive development.

The Commission continues to engage with Apple and many third parties to ensure that the DMA is implemented to benefit end users and businesses.

¹ Commission Decisions C(2025) 3000 final and C(2025) 3001 final.