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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.1.2026)

In the evening of Friday 5 September 2025, the Commission adopted a decision fining Google for breaching EU antitrust rules. Given the adoption of the decision on a Friday evening, the Commission chose to publish a written statement by the Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition[1] and provide a technical briefing to journalists that same evening. This approach ensured that key information was communicated promptly, without unnecessary delay.

This arrangement was collectively agreed upon internally and consistently explained by the Commission's spokesperson during the technical briefing on 5 September 2025, the midday briefing on 8 September 2025, and in written responses to media. It was also confirmed by the Executive Vice-President and the Cabinet in follow-up interactions with journalists.

The Commission as an institution upholds high standards of transparency, particularly in cases of significant public interest, such as this high-profile antitrust decision. While press conferences are a valuable tool for direct engagement, the Commission must also balance the need for timely, accurate, and comprehensive communication, especially when decisions are announced at unconventional times. The Commission will continue to assess the most effective way to communicate major decisions, ensuring that citizens and stakeholders receive clear explanations while maintaining timely communication.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/de/statement_25_2034.