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E-000612/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.4.2026)

The Commission is aware of Google's announcement to introduce this verification process starting from September 2026 in some jurisdictions (not including the EU based on publicly available information). The Commission understands that, as a result of this process, Android will require that all apps are registered by verified developers in order to be installed on certified Android devices. The Commission is also aware of public campaigns such as 'Keep Android Open' which have emerged in reaction to Google's announcement.

Determining whether a commercial practice is in breach of Article 102 TFEU requires an in-depth analysis of all relevant circumstances of the case. It is therefore not possible for the Commission to take a view on this question at this point in time.

Article 6(4) of the Digital Markets Act ('DMA') obliges gatekeepers like Alphabet to allow and technically enable the effective distribution of apps on their operating system through third party app stores or the web. At the same time, the DMA also permits Google to introduce strictly necessary and proportionate measures to ensure that third-party software apps or app stores do not endanger the integrity of the hardware or operating system, provided that such measures are duly justified by Alphabet.

The Commission is actively engaged in a regulatory dialogue with Alphabet concerning Article 6(4) and is diligently monitoring Alphabet's compliance with the relevant legal framework to ensure that apps, including open-source apps, can be effectively distributed on Android outside Google Play.