

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000748/26
to the Commission
Markéta Gregorová (Verts/ALE)
(23 February 2026)**

Subject: Android developer verification and application of the Digital Markets Act

Google has announced that the Android operating system will now require all apps, including sideloaded apps, to undergo a developer verification process that would force developers to provide their identity and identity documents to Google ⁽¹⁾. The implementation of this feature has raised concerns about its proportionality, effectiveness and potential impact on consumer freedoms, developers' anonymity and potential chilling effects on the availability of certain apps, especially open source and privacy friendly apps ⁽²⁾. In the light of these facts:

1. Is the Commission planning to investigate the matter?
2. Does the Commission consider that this measure is duly justified and strictly proportionate and necessary to protect the integrity of the operating system in accordance with Article 6(4) and Recital 50 of the Digital Markets Act ⁽³⁾?

Submitted: 23.2.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(8 April 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 applications (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.

Article 6(4) of the Digital Markets Act (DMA) ⁽¹⁾ 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) of the DMA 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.

¹ <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2025/08/google-will-block-sideloaded-apps-starting-next-year/>.

² <https://f-droid.org/en/2025/09/29/google-developer-registration-decree.html>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1925/oj/eng>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1925/oj/eng>.