

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001349/26
to the Commission**

Alexandra Geese (Verts/ALE), Anna Cavazzini (Verts/ALE), Reinier Van Lanschot (Verts/ALE)
(1 April 2026)

Subject: Google's developer registration decision and its threat to the EU's tech sovereignty

In August 2025, Google unilaterally decided ⁽¹⁾ that Android developers will be required to register centrally with Google. In addition to demanding the payment of a registration fee and agreement to its terms and conditions, Google also requires software developers to upload documentation to confirm their identity ⁽²⁾, including government-issued ID, and to enumerate ⁽³⁾ all the unique 'application identifiers' for every app that is to be distributed by the registered developer.

This has a drastic impact on open-source projects, competition and innovation. More importantly, this negatively impacts the EU's ability to work towards technological sovereignty, as Google frequently complies with the demands of non-EU countries to remove perfectly legal apps that do not fit their political agenda.

Is the Commission aware of this issue, and is it examining its compatibility with the Digital Markets Act?

Submitted: 1.4.2026

**Question for written answer E-001419/26
to the Commission**

Christel Schaldemose (S&D)
(8 April 2026)

Subject: Google's new Android developer verification program and compliance with the Digital Markets Act

Google has announced a new Android developer verification program, which is expected to be phased in soon. The new updates mean that Android app developers — including those who distribute apps outside Google Play, including via third-party app stores and sideloading — have to register with Google, provide official identification, pay a fee and accept Google's terms and conditions in order for their apps to be installed on Android devices.

For now, Google's promise of an 'advanced flow' feature specifically designed for superusers — and thus not ordinary users — is the only way to avoid this, but it requires an unnecessarily large number of steps and a total of 24 hours for individuals to complete. At the moment it can be done immediately, and is not hidden away in the developer settings.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission take the view that a requirement for the central registration and verification of all Android developers, especially those outside Google Play, is compatible with the Digital Markets Act?
2. Will the Commission consider such requirements to be a restriction on sideloading and third-party app stores?
3. How will the Commission ensure that security requirements such as these are not used as a way of circumventing the Digital Markets Act?

Submitted: 8.4.2026

Joint answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(15 June 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.

¹ Frey, S., 'A new layer of security for certified Android devices', Android Developers, 25 August 2025, <https://android-developers.googleblog.com/2025/08/elevating-android-security.html>.

² Android Developers, 'Elevating Android security to keep it open and safe', <https://developer.android.com/developer-verification#verify-your-identity>.

³ Android Developers, 'Elevating Android security to keep it open and safe', <https://developer.android.com/developer-verification#register-your-apps>.

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 regarding Article 6(4) of the DMA and is also 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 of Google Play.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2022.265.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A265%3ATOC.