

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002054/26
to the Commission
Regina Doherty (PPE), Seán Kelly (PPE)
(19 May 2026)**

Subject: Repealing the Platform-to-Business Regulation

Small and medium-sized enterprises rely on online intermediaries to access markets and reach customers in sectors such as hospitality, retail and media publishing.

Repealing the Platform-to-Business (P2B) Regulation would remove safeguards at a time when platform power is increasing and distribution models are becoming more complex through algorithmic and AI-driven ranking and recommendation systems.

While the Digital Markets Act plays a role in addressing unfair practices by designated gatekeepers, its scope is limited to a small number of very large platforms designated as gatekeepers. For these relationships, the P2B Regulation remains the only horizontal EU instrument ensuring baseline transparency and fairness.

Although the Digital Services Act introduces obligations on transparency and accountability, its primary objective is content moderation and systemic risk management rather than ensuring commercial fairness between platforms and business users.

The P2B Regulation has been used by national competition authorities, including in France in July 2025 to challenge Booking.com's service terms containing clauses deemed unfair to hoteliers. In 2025, the Italian national competition authority identified breaches of the P2B Regulation by Refurbed Marketplace GmbH. In Ireland in 2023, the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission consulted business users of online platforms under the P2B Regulation.

How does the Commission reconcile continued support for small and medium-sized enterprises with the repeal of the P2B Regulation?

Submitted: 19.5.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(6 July 2026)**

Since the adoption of the P2B Regulation in 2019 ⁽¹⁾, the EU regulatory framework governing online platforms has been strengthened significantly, particularly with the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽²⁾ and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) ⁽³⁾.

These two acts have introduced effective and far-reaching rules to ensure a safe, predictable and trusted online environment, as well as contestable and fair digital markets.

In line with the shared agenda of simplification, repealing the P2B Regulation will make the navigation for online platforms and for business users clearer as an additional layer of regulation will be removed, bringing legal clarity and lower compliance costs.

The Commission also noted that the P2B Regulation has been under-applied and under-enforced. With the DSA and the DMA, a much more robust enforcement structure is in place so that rights of business users are effectively protected, not just on paper.

Businesses need most protection in asymmetrical relationships where online platforms have considerable economic power or hold a strong negotiation position.

While the DMA focuses on gatekeepers and not all online platforms, it goes further than the mere transparency afforded by P2B in that it imposes obligations and prohibitions on those platforms where SMEs might otherwise fear retaliation.

Moreover, the DSA applies to online platforms of all sizes, with additional risk-based obligations for Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs) and Very Large Online Search Engines (VLOSEs), mirroring P2B provisions on terms and conditions, recommender systems, internal complaint-handling mechanism and mediation.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1150/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2022 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector and amending Directives (EU) 2019/1937 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Digital Markets Act); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1925/oj>.

The Commission therefore considers, via the DMA and the DSA, protections for business, including SMEs, are actually strengthened in situations where it matters most.
