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Commission

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Pascal Arimont MEP  
Maria da Graça Carvalho MEP  
Sabine Verheyen MEP  
Evelyne Gebhardt MEP  
Eva Maydell MEP  
Liesje Schreinemacher MEP  
Kris Peeters MEP  
Cindy Franssen MEP  
Maria Leitão Marques MEP  
Alex Agius Saliba MEP  
Petra Kammerever MEP

*Sent by email only*

Honourable Members,

In your joint letter of 10th of February, you raise concern with the business practices of certain digital platforms exercising a gatekeeper role and propose ways for the Commission to tackle any unfair or anti-competitive conduct by such entities.

The digital transformation changes the way that markets work. We have to ensure that we have effective rules and tools in place that will allow businesses and consumers to benefit from the opportunities that digitisation brings and to avoid reduced choice, higher prices and loss of innovation.

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Competition policy instruments have an inbuilt capacity to react to changing market circumstances, but we need to ensure that our rules and the guidance we give are adequate for today's increasingly fast moving, digital and globalised world. The Commission is currently assessing and reviewing the EU competition rules, including with a view to adapting them to tackle more effectively the business practices to which you refer.

In addition to this ongoing review, the Commission will also not shy away from using the full potential of the tools at its disposal – be it by imposing interim measures to avoid situations of fait accompli (as was done in the Broadcom case in October 2019), or by imposing remedies aimed at restoring competition in the market.

Further, in its Communication on Shaping Europe's Digital Future adopted on 19 February, the Commission announced that it will explore, as part of the Digital Services Act package, ex ante rules, to ensure that 'markets characterised by large platforms with significant network effects acting as gatekeepers, remain fair and contestable for innovators, businesses, and new market entrants'.

This effort will build on the first horizontal platform law – the platform-to-business Regulation (EU) 2019/1150, which will apply as of 12 July 2020 – and offer an opportunity to harness platforms' power to deliver more consumer choice, fair competition and long-term dynamism. The Commission has committed to an ambitious timeline and will engage in an open debate with all relevant actors in creating the European approach. A public consultation will be launched in the next weeks.

In all of these endeavours, the Commission will maintain a close dialogue with the European Parliament. I therefore welcome your support for our efforts aimed at ensuring a fair digital future for Europe.

Yours sincerely,



Margrethe VESTAGER



Thierry BRETON