

**Question for written answer E-004050/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Engin Eroglu (Renew)

Subject: Opening-up of the NFC interface to competition

On 14 November 2019, the German Bundestag passed a law that requires that the NFC (Near Field Communication) interface to be opened up, subject to appropriate conditions, to other payment service providers.

Customers would then be able to use apps from other providers, for example credit institutions, to make payments.

At present, for example, Apple is denying other providers access to the interface. Given the dominant market position of the large smart phone manufacturers, this stance is distorting competition.

Does the Commission intend to take a similar approach in its competition policy?

If not, how does it justify restricting competition in the area of payment by smart phone?

If so, what specific measures does it plan to take to remedy this restriction of competition, and what does it regard as appropriate conditions for foreign service providers?