At this stage, the Commission has no intention to launch a specific study into the functioning of the metaverse, but such a study is not excluded at a later stage.

The Commission has also no immediate intention to propose specific policy or regulatory measures concerning the metaverse, in particular since the existing regulatory framework also applies to metaverse. For example, the Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act on which the political agreement\(^1\) was recently reached provide the appropriate framework and the necessary tools to tackle issues concerning metaverse.

The Digital Markets Act will provide tools to foster contestability in the metaverse, either because the relevant services are within its scope or through the provisions that ensure future proofing of the Digital Markets Act.

Having said that, the Commission continues to closely follow market and technological developments concerning digital services, including possible challenges that such developments may bring for well-functioning markets in the digital sector.

Furthermore, the mere fact that existing digital services may be organised and provided differently to how this may be done today, does not deprive citizens and businesses from the protection provided by the existing legislation, including in the area of consumer protection. It will depend on the assessment of the nature of a given service and which legal obligations providers of services such as the metaverse would need to comply with.