

**Question for written answer E-003027/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Paul Tang (S&D)**

**Subject:** Apple's closed ecosystem and the iOS to Android switch

As Executive Vice-President Vestager rightly stated in 2022<sup>1</sup>, Apple's closed ecosystem is built to trap consumers<sup>2</sup>. A clear example of Apple's strategy is Apple's iMessage, which is set as the default on all iOS devices and accounts for more than 101 million daily users in Europe<sup>3</sup> (and the number is growing rapidly). Today's market is dominated by two operating systems, with their own non-interoperable messaging services, which limits the possibility of users and businesses moving freely from one ecosystem to the other.

1. Can the Commission explain why Apple's iMessage service is not listed among the core platform services of the Digital Markets Act (DMA) given that Apple publicly acknowledges having 101 million daily users in Europe?
2. Can the Commission provide the most recent data or studies it has on the percentage of users switching from Apple's iOS to Android operating systems in the EU?
3. Will the Commission allow consumer groups and companies to contribute to its investigation into Apple iMessage and will the conclusions be made public?

Submitted: 12.10.2023

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_22\\_2773](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_22_2773).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipitaka.com/blogs/news/the-apple-ecosystem-is-terrific-but-it-sucks-sometimes>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theverge.com/2023/4/28/23702159/apple-app-store-user-numbers-europe-eu-dsa-ios>.