

Compromise Amendment A

on Governance, Cooperation replacing all relevant amendments, including AM 25, 28-32, 98-100, 128-165, 383-412, 1133- 1180, ECON: 1-8, 59-60, 62-64, 190-196, ITRE: 1-9, 51-52, 53, 55-62, 206-214, CULT: 1-6, 35-40, 100-103, JURI: 1-10, 48-49, 51-56, 170-172, LIBE: 1-2, 23-26, 66-69, TRAN: 1-3, 23, 25, 76-77

Article 1

Subject-matter and scope

1. ~~This~~ ***The purpose of this Regulation is to contribute to the proper functioning of the internal market by laying down harmonised rules ensuring contestable and fair markets for all businesses to the benefit of both business users and end users in the digital sector across the Union where gatekeepers are present so as to foster innovation and increase consumer welfare.***
2. This Regulation shall apply to core platform services provided or offered by gatekeepers to business users established in the Union or end users established or located in the Union, irrespective of the place of establishment or residence of the gatekeepers and irrespective of the law otherwise applicable to the provision of service.
3. This Regulation shall not apply to markets:
 - (a) related to electronic communications networks as defined in point (1) of Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹;
 - (b) related to electronic communications services as defined in point (4) of Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972 other than those related to ***number-independent*** interpersonal communication services as defined in point ~~(4)~~**(b)** (7) of Article 2 of that Directive.
4. With regard to interpersonal communication services this Regulation is without prejudice to the powers and tasks granted to the national regulatory and other competent authorities by virtue of Article 61 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972.
5. ***In order to avoid the fragmentation of the internal market, Member States shall not impose on gatekeepers within the meaning of this Regulation further obligations by way of laws, regulations or administrative action for the purpose of ensuring contestable and fair markets. This is without prejudice to rules pursuing other legitimate public interests, in compliance with Union law. In particular, nothing in this Regulation precludes Member States from imposing obligations, which are compatible with Union law, on undertakings, including providers of core platform services where these obligations are unrelated to the relevant undertakings having a status of gatekeeper within the meaning of this Regulation in order to protect consumers, or to fight against acts of unfair competition or to pursue other legitimate public interests.***
6. This Regulation is without prejudice to the application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU. It is also without prejudice to the application of: national rules prohibiting

¹ Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (Recast) (OJ L 321, 17.12.2018, p. 36).

anticompetitive agreements, decisions by associations of undertakings, concerted practices and abuses of dominant positions; national competition rules prohibiting other forms of unilateral conduct insofar as ~~they~~ **these rules** are applied to undertakings other than gatekeepers **within the meaning of this Regulation** or amount to imposing additional obligations on gatekeepers; Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004² and national rules concerning merger control **and** Regulation (EU) 2019/1150~~and Regulation (EU) .../.. of the European Parliament and of the Council~~³.

7. National authorities shall not take decisions which would run counter to a decision adopted by the Commission under this Regulation. The Commission and Member States shall work in close cooperation and coordination in their enforcement actions **on the basis of the principles established in Article 31d**.

Article 31

Professional secrecy

1. The information collected pursuant to Articles 3, ~~12, 13,~~ 19, 20, ~~and~~ 21 **and 31d** shall be used only for the purposes of this Regulation.
 - 1a. The information collected pursuant to Article 12 shall be used only for the purposes of this Regulation and Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004.**
 - 1b. The information collected pursuant to Article 13 shall be used only for the purposes of this Regulation and Regulation 2016/679/EU.**
2. Without prejudice to the exchange and to the use of information provided for the purpose of use pursuant to Articles **12, 13, 31d,** 32 and 33, the Commission, the authorities of the Member States, their officials, servants and other persons working under the supervision of these authorities and any natural or legal person, including auditors and experts appointed pursuant to Article 24(2), shall not disclose information acquired or exchanged by them pursuant to this Regulation and of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy. This obligation shall also apply to all representatives and experts of Member States participating in any of the activities of the Digital Markets Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 32.

Article 31a

European High-Level Group of Digital Regulators

1. **The Commission shall establish a European High-Level Group of Digital Regulators (the “Group”) in the form of an expert group, consisting of a representative of the Commission, a representative of relevant Union bodies, representatives of national competent authorities and representatives of other national competent authorities in specific sectors including data protection, electronic communications and consumer protection authorities.**
2. **For the purposes of paragraph 1, the relevant national competent authorities shall be represented in the group by their respective heads. In order to facilitate the work**

² Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (the EC Merger Regulation) (OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1).

³ ~~Regulation (EU) .../.. of the European Parliament and of the Council — proposal on a Single Market For Digital Services (Digital Services Act) and amending Directive 2000/31/EC.~~

of the Group, the Commission shall provide it with a secretariat.

3. *The work of the Group may be organised into expert working groups building cross-regulator specialist teams that provide the Commission with high level of expertise.*

Article 31b

Tasks of the European High-Level Group of Digital Regulators

1. *The Group shall assist the Commission in ensuring the consistent application of this Regulation and monitoring its compliance by means of advice, expertise and recommendations. To that end, the Group shall have the following tasks:*

(a) to consider matters related to cooperation and coordination between the Commission and Member States in their enforcement actions by promoting the exchange of information and best practices about their work and decision-making principles and practices with the aim of developing a consistent regulatory approach;

(b) to make recommendations to the Commission on the need to conduct market investigations under Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17;

(c) to make recommendations to the Commission on the need to update the obligations of the Regulation under Articles 5 and 6;

(d) to provide advice and expertise to the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives including under Article 38;

(e) to provide advice and expertise to the Commission in the preparation of delegated acts;

(f) where necessary, to provide advice and expertise in the early preparation of implementing acts, before submission to the committee in accordance with Regulation (EU) N°182/2011; and

(g) at the request of the Commission, to provide technical advice and expertise before the adoption of a specification decision under Article 7.

2. *The Group shall report every year on its activities to the European Parliament and offer recommendations and policy suggestions related to the enforcement of this Regulation and other matters contributing to the development of a consistent regulatory approach to the digital single market.*

3. *The Group shall establish its rules of procedure in line with Commission expert groups rules established by Commission decision C(2016)3301.*

4. *The Group meetings with stakeholders and gatekeepers shall be registered and published on a monthly basis in line with the EU transparency register.*

Article 31c

Role of national competition authorities and other competent authorities

1. *National competition authorities as well as other competent authorities designated by the Member State shall support the Commission in monitoring compliance with and enforcement of the obligations laid down in this Regulation and report regularly to the Commission on compliance with this Regulation.*
2. *National competition authorities as well as other competent authorities may, under the coordination of the Commission, provide support to a market investigation or proceedings pursuant to Article 7(2), 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 by collecting information and providing expertise.*
3. *National competition authorities as well as other competent authorities may collect complaints in accordance with the procedure foreseen in Article 24a.*

Article 31d
Cooperation and coordination with Member States

1. *The Commission and Member States shall work in close cooperation and coordinate their enforcement actions to ensure coherent, effective and complementary enforcement of this Regulation.*
2. *Where a national authority intends to launch an investigation on gatekeepers based on national laws referred to in Article 1(6), it shall inform the Commission in writing of the first formal investigative measure, before or immediately after the start of such measure. This information may also be made available to the national competition authorities as well as other competent authorities of the other Member States.*
3. *Where a national authority intends to impose obligations on gatekeepers based on national laws referred to in Article 1(6), it shall, no later than 60 days before its adoption, communicate the draft measure to the Commission stating the reasons for the measure. This information may also be made available to the national competition authorities as well as other competent authorities of the other Member States. Where the Commission within those 60 days indicates to the national authority concerned that the draft measure runs counter to this Regulation or to a decision adopted by the Commission under this Regulation or contemplated in proceedings initiated by the Commission, that national authority shall not adopt the measure.*
4. *The Commission and the national competition authorities as well as other competent authorities of the Member States enforcing the rules referred to in Article 1(6) shall have the power to provide one another with any matter of fact or of law, including confidential information.*
5. *The national competition authorities as well as other competent authorities of the Member States enforcing the rules referred to in Article 1(6) may consult the Commission on any matter relating to the application of this Regulation.*

Article 32
Digital Markets Advisory Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Digital Markets Advisory Committee. That Committee shall be a Committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
- 1a For meetings in which specific issues are being discussed, Member States shall be entitled to appoint an additional representative from an authority with the relevant expertise for the issues discussed. This is without prejudice to the right of members of the Committee to be assisted by other experts from the Member States.*
2. Where the opinion of the committee is to be obtained by written procedure, that procedure shall be terminated without result when, within the time-limit for delivery of the opinion, the chair of the committee so decides or a simple majority of committee members so request.
3. The Commission shall communicate the opinion of the Digital Markets Advisory Committee to the addressee of an individual decision, together with that decision. It shall make the opinion public together with the individual decision, having regard to the legitimate interest in the protection of professional secrecy.
4. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.
- 4a Meetings of the Digital Markets Advisory Committee and the Commission with representatives of gatekeepers and other stakeholders shall be registered and published on a monthly basis in line with the EU transparency register.*

Article 33
Request for a market investigation

1. ~~Two or more national competition authorities or other competent national authorities may request~~ ~~When three or more Member States request~~ the Commission to open an investigation pursuant to Articles 15, 16, 17 or 25 ~~because they consider that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a provider of core platform services should be designated as a gatekeeper, the~~. **Competent authority (ies) shall submit evidence in support of their request. The Commission shall within four months examine whether there are reasonable grounds to open such an investigation. Where the Commission considers that there are insufficient grounds for initiating proceedings, it may reject such request and inform the respective competent authority (ies) of its reasons. The Commission shall publish the results of its assessment.**
- ~~2. Member States shall submit evidence in support of their request.~~

CORRESPONDING RECITALS:

- (1) Digital services in general and online platforms in particular play an increasingly important role in the economy, in particular in the internal market, by providing **business users with gateways to reach end users throughout the Union and beyond, by facilitating cross-border trade and by opening entirely new business opportunities to a large number of companies in the Union and facilitating cross-border trading to the benefit of European consumers.**

- (2) Core platform services, at the same time, feature a number of characteristics that can be exploited by their providers. These characteristics of core platform services include among others extreme scale economies, which often result from nearly zero marginal costs to add business users or end users. Other characteristics of core platform services are very strong network effects, an ability to connect many business users with many end users through the multi-sidedness of these services, a significant degree of dependence of both business users and end users, lock-in effects, a lack of multi-homing for the same purpose by end users, vertical integration, and data driven-advantages. All these characteristics combined with unfair conduct by providers of these services can have the effect of substantially undermining the contestability of the core platform services, as well as impacting the fairness of the commercial relationship between providers of such services and their business users and end users, leading to rapid and potentially far-reaching decreases in business users' and end users' choice in practice, and therefore can confer to the provider of those services the position of a so-called gatekeeper. ***At the same time, it should be recognised that services acting in a non-commercial purpose capacity such as collaborative projects should not be considered as core services for the purpose of this Regulation.***
- (3) A small number of large providers of core platform services have emerged with considerable economic power. Typically, they feature an ability to connect many business users with many end users through their services which, in turn, allows them to leverage their advantages, such as their access to large amounts of data, from one area of their activity to new ones. Some of these providers exercise control over whole platform ecosystems in the digital economy and are structurally extremely difficult to challenge or contest by existing or new market operators, irrespective of how innovative and efficient these may be. Contestability is particularly reduced due to the existence of very high barriers to entry or exit, including high investment costs, which cannot, or not easily, be recuperated in case of exit, and absence of (or reduced access to) some key inputs in the digital economy, such as data. As a result, the likelihood increases that the underlying markets do not function well – or will soon fail to function well.
- (4) The combination of those features of gatekeepers is likely to lead in many cases to serious imbalances in bargaining power and, consequently, to unfair practices and conditions for business users as well as end users of core platform services provided by gatekeepers, to the detriment of prices, quality, ***privacy and security standards, fair competition***, choice and innovation therein.
- (5) It follows that the market processes are often incapable of ensuring fair economic outcomes with regard to core platform services. Whereas Articles 101 and 102 TFEU remain applicable to the conduct of gatekeepers, their scope is limited to certain instances of market power (e.g. dominance on specific markets) and of anti-competitive behaviour, while enforcement occurs ex post and requires an extensive investigation of often very complex facts on a case by case basis. Moreover, existing Union law does not address, or does not address effectively, the identified challenges to the well-functioning of the internal market posed by the conduct of gatekeepers, which are not necessarily dominant in competition-law terms.
- (6) Gatekeepers have a significant impact on the internal market, providing gateways for a large number of business users, to reach end users, everywhere in the Union and on different markets. The adverse impact of unfair practices on the internal market and particularly weak contestability of core platform services, including their negative societal and economic implications, have led national legislators and sectoral regulators

to act. A number of ~~national~~ regulatory solutions have already been adopted *at national level* or proposed to address unfair practices and the contestability of digital services or at least with regard to some of them. This has created a risk of divergent regulatory solutions and thereby fragmentation of the internal market, thus raising the risk of increased compliance costs due to different sets of national regulatory requirements.

- (7) Therefore, business users and end-users of core platform services provided by gatekeepers should be afforded appropriate regulatory safeguards throughout the Union against the unfair behaviour of gatekeepers in order to facilitate cross-border business within the Union and thereby improve the proper functioning of the internal market and to address existing or likely emerging fragmentation in the specific areas covered by this Regulation. Moreover, while gatekeepers tend to adopt global or at least pan-European business models and algorithmic structures, they can adopt, and in some cases have adopted, different business conditions and practices in different Member States, which is liable to create disparities between the competitive conditions for the users of core platform services provided by gatekeepers, to the detriment of integration within the internal market.
- (8) By approximating diverging national laws, obstacles to the freedom to provide and receive services, including retail services, within the internal market should be eliminated. A targeted set of harmonised ~~mandatory rules~~ **legal obligations** should therefore be established at Union level to ensure contestable and fair digital markets featuring the presence of gatekeepers within the internal market *to the benefit of the European economy as whole and European consumers in particular*.
- (9) A fragmentation of the internal market can only be effectively averted if Member States are prevented from applying *on gatekeepers further rules or obligations* ~~national rules which~~ *for the purpose of ensuring contestable and fair markets* ~~are specific to the types of undertakings and services covered by this Regulation.~~ *This is without prejudice to the ability of Member States to impose the same, stricter or different obligations on gatekeepers in order to pursue other legitimate public interests, in compliance with Union law. Those legitimate public interests can be, among others, consumer protection, fight against acts of unfair competition and fostering media freedom and pluralism, freedom of expression, as well as diversity in culture or in languages.* At the same time, since this Regulation aims at complementing the enforcement of competition law, it should be specified that this Regulation is without prejudice to Articles 101 and 102 TFEU, to the corresponding national competition rules and to other national competition rules regarding unilateral behaviour that are based on an individualised assessment of market positions and behaviour, including its likely effects and the precise scope of the prohibited behaviour, and which provide for the possibility of undertakings to make efficiency and objective justification arguments for the behaviour in question. However, the application of the latter rules should not affect the obligations **and prohibitions** imposed on gatekeepers under this Regulation and their uniform and effective application in the internal market.
- (10) Articles 101 and 102 TFEU and the corresponding national competition rules concerning anticompetitive multilateral and unilateral conduct as well as merger control have as their objective the protection of undistorted competition on the market. This Regulation pursues an objective that is complementary to, but different from that of protecting undistorted competition on any given market, as defined in competition-law terms, which is to ensure that markets where gatekeepers are present are and remain contestable and fair, *and to protect the respective rights of business users and end*

users, independently from the actual, likely or presumed effects of the conduct of a given gatekeeper covered by this Regulation on competition on a given market. This Regulation therefore aims at protecting a different legal interest from those rules and should be without prejudice to their application.

- (11) This Regulation should also complement, without prejudice to their application, the rules resulting from other acts of Union law regulating certain aspects of the provision of services covered by this Regulation, in particular Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, Regulation (EU) xx/xx/EU [DSA] of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶, Directive (EU) 2019/790 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷, **Directive 2002/58/EC**, Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸, **Directive (EU) 2019/882**, **Directive (EU) 2018/1808** and Directive (EU) 2010/13 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹, **Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 93/13/EEC** as well as ~~national rules at national level adopted in accordance with aimed at enforcing or, as the case may be, implementing that~~ Union legislation. **Concerning specifically rules on consent to the processing of personal data set out in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive 2002/58/EC, this Regulation applies these rules without affecting them.**
- (12) Weak contestability and unfair practices in the digital sector are more frequent and pronounced for certain digital services than for others. This is the case in particular for widespread and commonly used digital services that mostly directly intermediate between business users and end users and where features such as extreme scale economies, very strong network effects, an ability to connect many business users with many end users through the multi-sidedness of these services, lock-in effects, a lack of multi-homing or vertical integration are the most prevalent. Often, there is only one or very few large providers of those digital services. These providers of core platform services have emerged most frequently as gatekeepers for business users and end users with far-reaching impacts, gaining the ability to easily set commercial conditions and terms in a unilateral and detrimental manner for their business users and end users. Accordingly, it is necessary to focus only on those digital services that are most broadly

⁴ 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 (OJ L 186, 11.7.2019, p. 57).

⁵ Regulation (EU) .../.. of the European Parliament and of the Council – proposal on a Single Market For Digital Services (Digital Services Act) and amending Directive 2000/31/EC.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

⁷ Directive (EU) 2019/790 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market and amending Directives 96/9/EC and 2001/29/ (OJ L 130, 17.5.2019, p. 92.).

⁸ Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

⁹ Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) (OJ L 95, 15.4.2010, p. 1).

used by business users and end users and where, ~~based on current market conditions~~, concerns about weak contestability and unfair practices by gatekeepers are more apparent and pressing from an internal market perspective.

- (13) In particular, online intermediation services, online search engines, operating systems *such as on smart devices, internet of things or embedded digital services in vehicles*, online social networking, video sharing platform services, number-independent interpersonal communication services, cloud computing services, *virtual assistant services, web browsers, connected TV* and online advertising services all have the capacity to affect a large number of end users and businesses alike, which entails a risk of unfair business practices. They therefore should be included in the definition of core platform services and fall into the scope of this Regulation. Online intermediation services may also be active in the field of financial services, and they may intermediate or be used to provide such services as listed non-exhaustively in Annex II to Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰. In certain circumstances, the notion of end users should encompass users that are traditionally considered business users, but in a given situation do not use the core platform services to provide goods or services to other end users, such as for example businesses relying on cloud computing services for their own purposes.
- (75) In the context of proceedings carried out under this Regulation, the undertakings concerned should be accorded the right to be heard by the Commission and the decisions taken should be widely publicised. While ensuring the rights to good administration and the rights of defence of the undertakings concerned, in particular, the right of access to the file and the right to be heard, it is essential that confidential *and sensitive commercial* information, *which could affect the privacy of trade secrets*, be protected. Furthermore, while respecting the confidentiality of the information, the Commission should ensure that any information relied on for the purpose of the decision is disclosed to an extent that allows the addressee of the decision to understand the facts and considerations that led up to the decision. Finally, under certain conditions certain business records, such as communication between lawyers and their clients, may be considered confidential if the relevant conditions are met.
- (75a) *In order to facilitate cooperation and coordination between the Commission and Member States in their enforcement actions, a high-level group of regulators with responsibilities in the digital sector should be established with the power to advise the Commission. Establishing that group of regulators should enable the exchange of information and best practices among the Member States, and enhance better monitoring and thus strengthen the implementation of this Regulation.*
- (75b) *The Commission shall apply the provisions of this Regulation in close cooperation with the competent national authorities, to ensure effective enforceability as well as coherent implementation of this Regulation and to facilitate the cooperation with national authorities.*
- (77) The advisory committee established in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182//2011 should also deliver opinions on certain individual decisions of the Commission issued under this Regulation. In order to ensure contestable and fair markets in the digital sector across the Union where gatekeepers are present, the power to adopt acts in

¹⁰ Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services, OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1.

accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty should be delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation. In particular, delegated acts should be adopted in respect of the methodology for determining the quantitative thresholds for designation of gatekeepers under this Regulation ~~and in respect of the update of the obligations laid down in this Regulation where, based on a market investigation the Commission has identified the need for updating the obligations addressing practices that limit the contestability of core platform services or are unfair.~~ It is of particular importance that the Commission carries out appropriate consultations and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016¹¹. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

(77a) National courts will have an important role in applying this Regulation and should be allowed to ask the Commission to send them information or opinions on questions concerning the application of this Regulation. At the same time, the Commission should be able to submit oral or written observations to courts of the Member States.

(79) The objective of this Regulation is to ensure a contestable and fair digital sector in general and core platform services in particular, with a view to promoting innovation, high quality of digital products and services, fair and competitive prices, as well as a high quality and choice for end users in the digital sector. This cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can only, by reason of the business model and operations of the gatekeepers and the scale and effects of their operations, be fully achieved at Union level. The Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

(79 a) Without prejudice to the budgetary procedure and through existing financial instruments, adequate human, financial and technical resources should be allocated to the Commission to ensure that it can effectively perform its duties and exercise its powers in respect of the enforcement of this Regulation.

(79b) This Regulation respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Articles 16, 47 and 50 thereof. Accordingly, this Regulation should be interpreted and applied with respect to those rights and principles.

¹¹ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making (OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p.1).

Compromise Amendment B
on Definitions replacing all relevant amendments, including AMs 33-36, 413-490 ,
ECON: 9, 65-78, ITRE: 63-78, CULT: 7-8, 41-49, JURI: 11, 57-72, LIBE: 27-32, TRAN:
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Article 2
Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

- (1) ‘Gatekeeper’ means a provider of core platform services designated pursuant to Article 3;
- (2) ‘Core platform service’ means any of the following:
 - (a) online intermediation services;
 - (b) online search engines;
 - (c) online social networking services;
 - (d) video-sharing platform services;
 - (e) number-independent interpersonal communication services;
 - (f) operating systems;
 - (fa) *web browsers*;**
 - (fb) *virtual assistants*;**
 - (fc) *connected TV*;**
 - (g) cloud computing services;
 - (h) ***online*** advertising services, including any advertising networks, advertising exchanges and any other advertising intermediation services, provided by a provider ***where the undertaking to which it belongs is also a provider*** of any of the core platform services listed in points (a) to (g);
- (3) ‘Information society service’ means any service within the meaning of point (b) of Article 1(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/1535;
- (4) ‘Digital sector’ means the sector of products and services provided by means of or through information society services;
- (5) ‘Online intermediation services’ means services as defined in point 2 of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1150;
- (6) ‘Online search engine’ means a digital service as defined in point 5 of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 ***thus excluding the search functions on other online intermediation services***;
- (7) ‘Online social networking service’ means a platform that enables end users to connect, share, discover and communicate with each other across multiple devices and, in particular, via chats, posts, videos and recommendations;

- (8) ‘Video-sharing platform service’ means a service as defined in point (aa) of Article 1(1) of Directive (EU) 2010/13¹;
- (9) ‘Number-independent interpersonal communications service’ means a service as defined in point 7 of Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972;
- (10) ‘Operating system’ means a system software which controls the basic functions of the hardware or software and enables software applications to run on it;
- (10 a) *Web browser’ means software application that enables users to access and interact with web content hosted on servers that are connected to networks such as the Internet, including standalone web browsers as well as web browsers integrated or embedded in software or similar***
- (10 b) *‘Virtual assistants’ means software that is incorporated or inter-connected with a good, within the meaning of Directive 2019/771, that can process demands, tasks or questions based on audio, imaging or other cognitive-computing technologies, including augmented reality services, and based on those demands, tasks or questions access their own and third party services or control their own and third party devices.***
- 10 e) *”connected TV” means a system software or software application that controls a television set connected to the internet that enables software applications to run on it including for the provision of music and video streaming, or viewing of pictures ;***
- (11) ‘Cloud computing services’ means a digital service as defined in point 19 of Article 4 of Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council²;
- (12) ‘Software application stores’ means a type of online intermediation services, which is focused on software applications as the intermediated product or service;
- (13) ‘Software application’ means any digital product or service that runs on an operating system;
- (14) ‘Ancillary service’ means services provided in the context of or together with core platform services, including payment services as defined in point 3 of Article 4, technical services which support the provision of payment services as defined in Article 3(j) of Directive (EU) 2015/2366, ***in-app payment systems***, fulfilment, ***including parcel delivery as defined in Article 2 paragraph 2 of Regulation (EU) 2018/644, freight transport***, identification or advertising services;
- (14a) *In-app payment system’ means an application, service or user interface to process the payments from users of an app.***
- (15) ‘Identification service’ means a type of ancillary services that enables any type of verification of the identity of end users or business users, regardless of the technology used;

¹ Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) (OJ L 95, 15.4.2010, p. 1).

² Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union (OJ L 194, 19.7.2016, p. 1).

- (16) ‘End user’ means any natural or legal person using core platform services other than as a business user;
- (17) ‘Business user’ means any natural or legal person acting in a commercial or professional capacity using core platform services ~~on the basis of contractual relationships with the provider of those services~~ for the purpose of or in the course of providing goods or services to end users;
- (18) ‘Ranking’ means the relative prominence given to goods or services offered through ~~online intermediation services or online social networking core platform services~~, or the relevance given to search results by online search engines, as presented, organised or communicated by the *core platform service* providers ~~of online intermediation services or of online social networking services or by providers of online search engines, respectively, whatever the~~ *irrespective of the* technological means used for such presentation, organisation or communication;
- (18 a) *‘Search results’ means any information in any format, including texts, graphics, voice or other output, returned in response and related to a written or oral search query, irrespective of whether the information is an organic result, a paid result, a direct answer or any product, service or information offered in connection with, or displayed along with, or partly or entirely embedded in, the organic results;*
- (19) ‘Data’ means any digital representation of acts, facts or information and any compilation of such acts, facts or information, including in the form of sound, visual or audiovisual recording;
- (20) ‘Personal data’ means any information as defined in point 1 of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679;
- (21) ‘Non-personal data’ means data other than personal data as defined in point 1 of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679;
- (22) ‘Undertaking’ means all linked enterprises or connected undertakings that form a group through the direct or indirect control of an enterprise or undertaking by another and that are engaged in an economic activity, regardless of their legal status and the way in which they are financed;
- (23) ‘Control’ means the possibility of exercising decisive influence on an undertaking, as understood in Regulation (EU) No 139/2004.
- (23b) *‘Interoperability’ means the ability to exchange information and mutually use the information which has been exchanged so that all elements of hardware or software relevant for a given service and used by its provider effectively work with hardware or software relevant for a given services provided by third party providers different from the elements through which the information concerned is originally provided. This shall include the ability to access such information without having to use an application software or other technologies for conversion.*

CORRESPONDING RECITALS

- (14) A number of other ancillary services, such as identification *services*, payment services, technical services which support the provision of payment services *or in-app payment systems*, may be provided by gatekeepers together with their core platform services. As gatekeepers frequently provide the portfolio of their services as part of an integrated ecosystem to which third-party providers of such ancillary services do not have access,

at least not subject to equal conditions, and can link the access to the core platform service to take-up of one or more ancillary services, the gatekeepers are likely to have an increased ability and incentive to leverage their gatekeeper power from their core platform services to these ancillary services, to the detriment of choice and contestability of these services.

Compromise Amendment C

on gatekeeper designation replacing all relevant amendments, including AM 37-51, 491 - 591, ECON: 10-19, 49, 79-100, ITRE: 10-14, 79-98, CULT: 9-12, 50-54, JURI: 12-18, 73-87, LIBE: 3-4, 33, TRAN: 4-12, 28-39

Article 3

Designation of gatekeepers

1. ~~A provider of core platform services~~ **An undertaking** shall be designated as gatekeeper if:
 - (a) it has a significant impact on the internal market;
 - (b) it operates a core platform service which serves as an important gateway for business users ~~or~~ **and end users** to reach other end users; and
 - (c) it enjoys an entrenched and durable position in its operations or it is foreseeable that it will enjoy such a position in the near future.
2. ~~A provider of core platform services~~ **An undertaking** shall be presumed to satisfy:
 - (a) the requirement in paragraph 1 point (a) where ~~the undertaking to which it belongs~~ **it** achieves an annual EEA turnover equal to or above EUR ~~6.5~~ **8** billion in the last three financial years, or where the average market capitalisation or the equivalent fair market value of the undertaking ~~to which it belongs~~ amounted to at least EUR ~~65~~ **80** billion in the last financial year, and it provides a core platform service in at least three Member States;
 - (b) the requirement in paragraph 1 point (b) where it provides **one or more** a core platform services ~~that each of which~~ has more than 45 million monthly **active** end users established or located in the **Union EEA** and more than 10 000 yearly **active** business users established in the **Union EEA** in the last financial year.

~~for the purpose of the first subparagraph, monthly active end users shall refer to the average number of monthly active end users throughout the largest part of the last financial year;~~
 - (c) the requirement in paragraph 1 point (c) where the thresholds in point (b) were met in each of the last ~~two~~ **three** financial years.

For the purpose of point (b),

 - (i) *monthly end users and yearly business users shall be measured taking into account the indicators set out in the Annex to this Regulation; and*
 - (ii) *monthly end users shall refer to the average number of monthly end users during a period of at least six months within the last financial year;*
3. Where ~~a provider of an undertaking providing~~ core platform services meets all the thresholds in paragraph 2, it shall notify the Commission thereof **without delay and in any case** within ~~three~~ **two** months after those thresholds are satisfied and provide it with the relevant information identified in paragraph 2.. That notification shall include the relevant information identified in paragraph 2 for each of the core platform

services of the ~~provider~~ **undertaking** that meets the thresholds in paragraph 2 point (b). The notification shall be updated whenever other core platform services individually meet the thresholds in paragraph 2 point (b).

A failure by a relevant provider of core platform services to notify the required information pursuant to this paragraph shall not prevent the Commission from designating these providers as gatekeepers pursuant to paragraph 4 at any time.

4. The Commission shall, without undue delay and at the latest 60 days after receiving the complete information referred to in paragraph 3, designate the **undertaking providing provider** of core platform services that meets all the thresholds of paragraph 2 as a gatekeeper, ~~unless that provider~~. **The undertaking may present**, with its notification, ~~presents sufficiently substantiated~~ **compelling** arguments to demonstrate that, in the circumstances in which the relevant core platform service operates, ~~and taking into account the elements listed in paragraph 6~~, the **provider undertaking** does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph 1.

~~Where the gatekeeper presents such compelling sufficiently substantiated arguments to demonstrate that it does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph 1, the Commission shall apply paragraph 6 to assess whether the criteria in paragraph 1 are met.~~

- 4.a Where the undertaking providing the core platform service fails to notify the Commission, to provide the information required in paragraph 3 or to provide within the deadline set by the Commission all the relevant information that is required to assess its designation as gatekeeper pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (6), the Commission shall be entitled to designate that undertaking as a gatekeeper at any time based on information available to the Commission pursuant to paragraph 4.*

5. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 37 to specify the methodology for determining whether the quantitative thresholds laid down in paragraph 2 *of this Article* are met, ~~and update the list of indicators set out in the Annex to this Regulation~~ and to regularly adjust **the methodology** to market and technological developments where necessary, ~~in particular as regards the threshold in paragraph 2, point (a)~~. *The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 37 to update the list of indicators set out in the Annex to this Regulation.*

6. The Commission ~~may~~ **shall** identify as a gatekeeper, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 15, any **undertaking providing provider** of core platform services, *excluding Medium-sized, Small or Micro enterprises as defined in the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC*, that meets each of the requirements of paragraph 1 *of this Article*, but does not satisfy each of the thresholds of paragraph 2 *of this Article*, ~~or has presented sufficiently substantiated arguments in accordance with paragraph 4.~~

For that purpose, the Commission shall take into account the following elements:

- (a) the size, including turnover and market capitalisation, operations and position of the **undertaking providing provider** of core platform services;
- (b) the number of business users depending on the core platform service to reach end users and the number of end users;

- (c) entry barriers derived from network effects and data driven advantages, in particular in relation to the **provider undertaking**'s access to and collection of personal and non-personal data or analytics capabilities;
- (d) scale and scope effects the **provider undertaking** benefits from, including with regard to data;
- (e) business user or end user lock-in;
- (ea) the degree of multi-homing among business;*
- (eb) the ability of the undertaking to implement conglomerate strategies, in particular through its vertical integration or its significant leverage in related markets;*
- (f) other structural market characteristics.

In conducting its assessment, the Commission shall take into account foreseeable developments of these elements *including any planned concentrations involving another provider of core platform services or of any other services provided in the digital sector.*

~~Where the provider of a core platform service that satisfies the quantitative thresholds of paragraph 2 fails to comply with the investigative measures ordered by the Commission in a significant manner and the failure persists after the provider has been invited to comply within a reasonable time limit and to submit observations, the Commission shall be entitled to designate that provider as a gatekeeper.~~

~~Where the provider of a core platform service that does not satisfy the quantitative thresholds of paragraph 2 fails to comply with the investigative measures ordered by the Commission in a significant manner and the failure persists after the provider has been invited to comply within a reasonable time limit and to submit observations, the Commission shall be entitled to designate that provider as a gatekeeper based on facts available.~~

7. For each **undertaking gatekeeper designated as gatekeeper identified** pursuant to paragraph 4 or paragraph 6, the Commission shall identify *within the deadline set under paragraph 4 the relevant undertaking to which it belongs and list* the relevant core platform services that are provided within that same undertaking and which individually serve as an important gateway for business users to reach end users as referred to in paragraph 1(b).
8. The gatekeeper shall comply with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6 *as soon as possible, and in any case no later than four* six months after a core platform service has been included in the list pursuant to paragraph 7 of this Article.

Article 4

Review of the status of gatekeepers

1. The Commission may upon request or its own initiative reconsider, amend or repeal at any moment a decision adopted pursuant to Article 3 for one of the following reasons:

- (a) there has been a substantial change in any of the facts on which the decision was based;
 - (b) the decision was based on incomplete, incorrect or misleading information provided by the undertakings.
2. The Commission shall regularly, and at least every ~~2~~ **three** years, review whether the designated gatekeepers continue to satisfy the requirements laid down in Article 3(1), **and at least every year** ~~or~~ whether new ~~undertakings providing providers of~~ core platform services satisfy those requirements. The regular review shall also examine whether the list of affected core platform services of the gatekeeper needs to be adjusted. ***The review shall have no suspending effect on the gatekeeper's obligations.***

Where the Commission, on the basis of that review pursuant to the first subparagraph, finds that the facts on which the designation of the ~~undertakings providing providers of~~ core platform services as gatekeepers was based, have changed, it shall adopt a corresponding decision.

3. The Commission shall publish and update the list of ***undertakings designated as*** gatekeepers and the list of the core platform services for which they need to comply with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6 on an on-going basis. ***The Commission shall publish an annual report setting out the findings of its monitoring activities including the impact on business-users especially small and medium-sized enterprises and end-users and present it to the European Parliament and the Council.***

Annex I

a. 'General'

1. The present annex aims at specifying the methodology for identifying and calculating the 'end users' and the 'business users' for each core platform service defined in Article 2(2) for the purpose of point (b) of Article 3(2). It provides a reference to enable an undertaking to assess whether its core platforms services meet the quantitative thresholds set out in Article 3(2)(b) and would therefore be presumed to meet the requirement in Article 3(1)(b). It will therefore equally be of relevance to any broader assessment under Article 3(6). It is the responsibility of the undertaking to come to the best approximation possible in line with the common principles and specific methodology set out in this annex. Nothing in this annex precludes the Commission from requiring the undertaking providing core platform services to provide any information necessary to identify and calculate the 'end users' and the 'business users'. In doing so, the Commission is bound by the timelines laid down in the relevant provisions of this Regulation. Nothing in the present annex should constitute a legal basis for tracking users. The methodology contained in this annex is also without prejudice to any of the obligations in the Regulation, notably including those laid down in Article 3(3), Article 3(6) and Article 11(1). In particular, the required compliance with Article 11(1) also means identifying and calculating end users and business users based either on a precise measurement or on the best approximation available – in line with the actual identification and calculation capacities that the undertaking providing core platform services possesses at the relevant point in time. These measurements or the best approximation available shall be consistent with, and include, those reported under Article 13.
2. Article 2(16) and (17) set out the definitions of 'end user' and 'business user', which are common to all core platform services.
3. In order to identify and calculate the number of 'end users' and 'business users', the present annex refers to the concept of '**unique users**'. The concept of 'unique users' encompasses 'end users' and 'business users' counted only once, for the relevant core platform service, over the course of a specified time period (i.e. month in case of 'end users' and year in case of 'business users'), no matter how many times they engaged with the relevant core platform service over that period. This is without prejudice to the fact that the same natural or legal person can simultaneously constitute an end user or business user for different core platform services.

b. 'end users'

4. Number of '**unique users**' as regards '**end users**': unique users shall be identified according to the most accurate metric reported by the undertaking providing any of the core platform services, specifically:
 - a. It is considered that collecting data about the use of core platform services from signed-in or logged-in environments would *prima facie* present the lowest risk of duplication, for example in relation to user behaviour across devices or platforms. Hence, the undertaking shall submit aggregate anonymized data on the number of unique users per respective core platform service based on signed-in or logged-in environments if such data exists.

- b. The undertaking providing core platform service(s) shall consider as distinct core platform services those core platform services, which despite belonging to the same category of core platform services pursuant to Article 2(2) are used for different purposes by either their end users or their business users, or both, even if their end users and business users may be the same.
- c. The undertaking providing core platform service(s) shall consider as distinct core platform services those services which the relevant undertaking offers in an integrated way but which (i) do not belong to the same category of core platform services pursuant to Article 2(2) or (ii) despite belonging to the same category of core platform services pursuant to Article 2(2), are used for different purposes by either their end users or their business users, or both, even if their end users and business users may be the same.

e. 'Specific definitions'

- 9. **Specific definitions per core platform service:** The below list sets out specific definitions of 'end users' and 'business users' for each core platform service.

Core platform service	end users	business users
Online intermediation services	Number of unique end users who engaged with the online intermediation service at least once in the month for example through actively logging-in, , making a query, clicking or scrolling or concluded a transaction through the online intermediation service at least once in the month.	Number of unique business users who had at least one item listed in the online intermediation service during the whole year or concluded a transaction enabled by the online intermediation service during the year.
Online search engines	Number of unique end users who engaged with the online search engine at least once in the month, for example through making a query.	Number of unique business users with business websites (i.e. website used in commercial or professional capacity) indexed by or part of the index of the online search engine during the year.
Online social networking services	Number of unique end users who engaged with the online social networking service at least once in the month, for example through actively logging-in, opening a page, scrolling, clicking, liking, making a query, posting or commenting.	Number of unique business users who have a business listing or business account in the online social networking service and have engaged in any way with the service at least once during the year, for example through actively logging-in, opening a page, scrolling, clicking, liking, making a query, posting, commenting or using its tools for businesses.

Video-sharing platform services	Number of unique end users who engaged with the video-sharing platform service at least once in the month, for example through playing a segment of audiovisual content, making a query or uploading a piece of audiovisual content, notably including user-generated videos.	Number of unique business users who provided at least one piece of audiovisual content uploaded or played on the video-sharing platform service during the year.
Number-independent interpersonal communication services	Number of unique end users who initiated or participated in any way in a communication through the number-independent interpersonal communication service at least once in the month.	Number of unique business users who used a business account or otherwise initiated or participated in any way in a communication through the number-independent interpersonal communication service to communicate directly with an end user at least once during the year.
Operating systems	Number of unique end users who utilised a device with the operating system, which has been activated, updated or used at least once in the month.	Number of unique developers who published, updated or offered at least one software application or software program using the programming language or any software development tools of, or running in any way on, the operating system during the year.
Cloud computing services	Number of unique end users who engaged with any cloud computing services from the relevant provider of cloud computing services at least once in the month, in return for any type of remuneration, regardless of whether this remuneration occurs in the same month.	Number of unique business users who provided any cloud computing services hosted in the cloud infrastructure of the relevant provider of cloud computing services during the year.
Advertising services	<p><u>Proprietary sales of advertising space</u></p> <p>Number of unique end users who were exposed to an advertisement impression at least once in the month.</p> <p><u>Advertising intermediation (including advertising networks, advertising exchanges and any other advertising intermediation services)</u></p> <p>Number of unique end users who were exposed to an advertisement</p>	<p><u>Proprietary sales of advertising space</u></p> <p>Number of unique advertisers who had at least one advertisement impression displayed during the year.</p> <p><u>Advertising intermediation (including advertising networks, advertising exchanges and any other advertising intermediation services)</u></p> <p>Number of unique business users (including advertisers, publishers</p>

	impression which triggered the advertising intermediation service at least once in the month.	or other intermediators) who interacted via or were served by the advertising intermediation service during the year.
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List of indicators to be used by the providers of core platform services when measuring active monthly end users for the purposes of Article 3 (1) b)

~~-App stores~~

~~-Number of users having downloaded at least one app and/or having made at least one in-app purchase via the app store provider or have inserted at least one query during the month~~

~~-Online market places~~

~~-Number of unique visitors, based on the number of IP addresses with active sessions that inserted at least one query~~

~~-Number of unique end users that transacted in any way (including by clicking on a link, inquiring about specific goods or services, etc.) with business users~~

~~-Online search engines~~

~~-Number of IP addresses with active sessions that inserted at least one query~~

~~-Online social networking services~~

~~-Number of users that used the service at least once in the month by clicking, liking, querying or otherwise engaging with it~~

~~-Video-sharing platform services~~

~~-Number of IP addresses with active sessions that used the service at least once in the month~~

~~-Number of unique site visitors playing a video~~

~~-Number-independent interpersonal communication services~~

~~-Users with an account that sent a message at least once in the month~~

~~-Number of unique users that sent/received a message~~

~~-Operating systems~~

~~-Number of monthly active devices (i.e. a device running on any version of the OS that is still active and which was used in any way at least once in that month) with a given autonomous operating system~~

~~-Installed base of unique users~~

~~-Cloud computing services~~

~~-Online advertising services~~

List of indicators to be used by the providers of core platform services when measuring yearly active business users for the purposes of Article 3 (1) b)

~~-App stores~~

~~-Number of app developers whose app has been downloaded or has offered at least one app for sale in a given year on app store~~

~~-Market places~~

~~-Number of traders concluding at least one transaction on the CPS in a given year~~

~~-Number of traders listing a new good/item on the CPS in a given year~~

~~-Number of traders using any 'paid ranking' service on the CPS in a given year~~

~~-Online search engines~~

~~-Number of corporate website users indexed by the online search engine at any given point in a given year~~

~~-Online social networking services~~

~~-----Number of businesses with an active page in the social network in a given year~~

~~-----Number of app developers integrating with the social network in a given year~~

~~-Video-sharing platform services~~

~~-Number of providers of content/publishers with at least one piece of content/video published per year~~

~~-Number of professional users that engaged in any way with the CPS in a given year, including by subscribing end users of the same CPS, by using 'paid ranking services' of the CPS, by adding any new content or otherwise~~

~~-Number-independent interpersonal communication services~~

~~-Number of professional users that used any chat-like functionality to communicate directly with an end users user of an NI-ICS in a given year~~

~~-Number of businesses with business accounts used at least once for communication with end users in a given year~~

~~-Operating systems~~

~~-Number of professional users that called any of the OS APIs at least once in a given year~~

~~-Cloud computing services~~

~~-Number of professional users having contracted cloud services at any point in a given year~~

~~-Online advertising services~~

~~-~~

CORRESPONDING RECITALS

- (15) The fact that a digital service qualifies as a core platform service in light of its widespread and common use and its importance for connecting business users and end users does not as such give rise to sufficiently serious concerns of contestability and unfair practices. It is only when a core platform service constitutes an important gateway and is operated by a provider with a significant impact in the internal market and an entrenched and durable position, or by a provider that will foreseeably have such a position in the near future, that such concerns arise. Accordingly, the targeted set of harmonised rules laid down in this Regulation should apply only to undertakings designated on the basis of these three objective criteria, and they should only apply to those of their core platform services that individually constitute an important gateway for business users to reach end users.
- (16) In order to ensure the effective application of this Regulation to providers of core platform services which are most likely to satisfy these objective requirements, and where unfair conduct weakening contestability is most prevalent and impactful, the Commission should be able to directly designate as gatekeepers those providers of core platform services which meet certain quantitative thresholds. Such undertakings should in any event be subject to a fast designation process which should start upon the entry into force of this Regulation.
- (17) A very significant turnover in the Union and the provision of a core platform service in at least three Member States constitute compelling indications that the provider of a core platform service has a significant impact on the internal market. This is equally true where a provider of a core platform service in at least three Member States has a very significant market capitalisation or equivalent fair market value. Therefore, a provider of a core platform service should be presumed to have a significant impact on the internal market where it provides a core platform service in at least three Member States and where either its group turnover realised in the EEA is equal to or exceeds a specific, high threshold or the market capitalisation of the group is equal to or exceeds a certain high absolute value. For providers of core platform services that belong to undertakings that are not publicly listed, the equivalent fair market value above a certain high absolute value should be referred to. The Commission should use its power to adopt delegated acts to develop an objective methodology to calculate that value. A high EEA group turnover in conjunction with the threshold of users in the Union of core platform services reflects a relatively strong ability to monetise these users. A high market capitalisation relative to the same threshold number of users in the Union reflects a relatively significant potential to monetise these users in the near future. This monetisation potential in turn reflects in principle the gateway position of the undertakings concerned. Both indicators are in addition reflective of their financial capacity, including their ability to leverage their access to financial markets to reinforce their position. This may for example happen where this superior access is used to acquire other undertakings, which ability has in turn been shown to have potential negative effects on innovation. Market capitalisation can also be reflective of the expected future position and effect on the internal market of the providers concerned, notwithstanding a potentially relatively low current turnover. The market capitalisation value can be based on a level that reflects the average market capitalisation of the largest publicly listed undertakings in the Union over an appropriate period.
- (18) A sustained market capitalisation of the provider of core platform services at or above the threshold level over three or more years should be considered as strengthening the

presumption that the provider of core platform services has a significant impact on the internal market.

- (19) There may be a number of factors concerning market capitalisation that would require an in-depth assessment in determining whether a provider of core platform services should be deemed to have a significant impact on the internal market. This may be the case where the market capitalisation of the provider of core platform services in preceding financial years was significantly lower than the average of the equity market, the volatility of its market capitalisation over the observed period was disproportionate to overall equity market volatility or its market capitalisation trajectory relative to market trends was inconsistent with a rapid and unidirectional growth.
- (20) A very high number of business users that depend on a core platform service to reach a very high number of monthly active end users allow the provider of that service to influence the operations of a substantial part of business users to its advantage and indicate in principle that the provider serves as an important gateway. The respective relevant levels for those numbers should be set representing a substantive percentage of the entire population of the Union when it comes to end users and of the entire population of businesses using platforms to determine the threshold for business users.
- (21) An entrenched and durable position in its operations or the foreseeability of achieving such a position future occurs notably where the contestability of the position of the provider of the core platform service is limited. This is likely to be the case where that provider has provided a core platform service in at least three Member States to a very high number of business users and end users during at least three years. **A list of indicators to be used by the providers of core platforms services when measuring monthly end users and yearly business users should be provided in an Annex to this Regulation.**
- (22) Such thresholds can be impacted by market and technical developments. The Commission should therefore be empowered to adopt delegated acts to specify the methodology for determining whether the quantitative thresholds are met **and update the list of indicators set out in the Annex to this Regulation**, and to regularly adjust it to market and technological developments where necessary. This is particularly relevant in relation to the threshold referring to market capitalisation, which should be indexed in appropriate intervals.
- (23) Providers of core platform services **should be able to demonstrate that, despite meeting the quantitative thresholds, due to the exceptional circumstances in which the relevant core platform service operates, they do not fulfil the objective requirements to qualify as a gatekeeper** which meet the quantitative thresholds but **only if they** are able to present sufficiently substantiated **compelling** arguments to demonstrate **this** that, in the circumstances in which the relevant core platform service operates, they do not fulfil the objective requirements for a gatekeeper, should not be designated directly, but only subject to a further investigation. The burden of adducing **compelling** evidence that the presumption deriving from the fulfilment of quantitative thresholds should not apply to a specific provider should be borne by that provider. ~~In its assessment, the Commission should take into account only the elements which directly relate to the requirements for constituting a gatekeeper, namely whether it is an important gateway which is operated by a provider with a significant impact in the internal market with an entrenched and durable position, either actual or foreseeable. Any justification on economic grounds seeking to demonstrate efficiencies deriving from a specific type of behaviour by the provider of core platform services should be~~

~~discarded, as it is not relevant to the designation as a gatekeeper.~~ The Commission should be able to take a decision by relying on the quantitative thresholds **and facts available** where the provider significantly obstructs the investigation by failing to comply with the investigative measures taken by the Commission. ***In view of improving market transparency, the Commission may require that information provided regarding business and end users is verified by third party audience measurement providers qualified to provide such services in accordance with market standards and codes of conduct applicable in the European Union.***

- (24) Provision should also be made for the assessment of the gatekeeper role of providers of core platform services which do not satisfy all of the quantitative thresholds, in light of the overall objective requirements that they have a significant impact on the internal market, act as an important gateway for business users to reach end users and benefit from a durable and entrenched position in their operations or it is foreseeable that it will do so in the near future.
- (25) Such an assessment can only be done in light of a market investigation, while taking into account the quantitative thresholds. In its assessment the Commission should pursue the objectives of preserving and fostering the level of innovation, the quality of digital products and services, the degree to which prices are fair and competitive, and the degree to which quality or choice for business users and for end users is or remains high. Elements that are specific to the providers of core platform services concerned, such as extreme scale economies, very strong network effects, an ability to connect many business users with many end users through the multi-sidedness of these services, lock-in effects, a lack of multi-homing or vertical integration, can be taken into account. In addition, a very high market capitalisation, a very high ratio of equity value over profit or a very high turnover derived from end users of a single core platform service can point to the tipping of the market or leveraging potential of such providers. Together with market capitalisation, high growth rates, or decelerating growth rates read together with profitability growth, are examples of dynamic parameters that are particularly relevant to identifying such providers of core platform services that are foreseen to become entrenched. The Commission should be able to take a decision by drawing adverse inferences from facts available where the provider significantly obstructs the investigation by failing to comply with the investigative measures taken by the Commission.
- (26) A particular subset of rules should apply to those providers of core platform services that are foreseen to enjoy an entrenched and durable position in the near future. The same specific features of core platform services make them prone to tipping: once a service provider has obtained a certain advantage over rivals or potential challengers in terms of scale or intermediation power, its position may become unassailable and the situation may evolve to the point that it is likely to become durable and entrenched in the near future. Undertakings can try to induce this tipping and emerge as gatekeeper by using some of the unfair conditions and practices regulated in this Regulation. In such a situation, it appears appropriate to intervene before the market tips irreversibly.
- (27) However, such an early intervention should be limited to imposing only those obligations that are necessary and appropriate to ensure that the services in question remain contestable and allow to avoid the qualified risk of unfair conditions and practices. Obligations that prevent the provider of core platform services concerned from achieving an entrenched and durable position in its operations, such as those preventing unfair leveraging, and those that facilitate switching and multi-homing are

more directly geared towards this purpose. To ensure proportionality, the Commission should moreover apply from that subset of obligations only those that are necessary and proportionate to achieve the objectives of this Regulation and should regularly review whether such obligations should be maintained, suppressed or adapted.

- (28) This should allow the Commission to intervene in time and effectively, while fully respecting the proportionality of the considered measures. It should also reassure actual or potential market participants about the fairness and contestability of the services concerned.
- (29) Designated gatekeepers should comply with the obligations laid down in this Regulation in respect of each of the core platform services listed in the relevant designation decision. The mandatory rules should apply taking into account the conglomerate position of gatekeepers, where applicable. Furthermore, implementing measures that the Commission may by decision impose on the gatekeeper ~~following a regulatory dialogue~~ should be designed in an effective manner, having regard to the features of core platform services as well as possible circumvention risks and in compliance with the principle of proportionality and the fundamental rights of the undertakings concerned as well as those of third parties.
- (30) The very rapidly changing and complex technological nature of core platform services requires a regular review of the status of gatekeepers, including those that are foreseen to enjoy a durable and entrenched position in their operations in the near future. To provide all of the market participants, including the gatekeepers, with the required certainty as to the applicable legal obligations, a time limit for such regular reviews is necessary. It is also important to conduct such reviews on a regular basis and at least every ~~two~~ years.
- (63) Following a market investigation, an undertaking providing a core platform service could be found to fulfil all of the overarching qualitative criteria for being identified as a gatekeeper. It should then, in principle, comply with all of the relevant obligations laid down by this Regulation. However, for gatekeepers that have been designated by the Commission as likely to enjoy an entrenched and durable position in the near future, the Commission should only impose those obligations that are necessary and appropriate to prevent that the gatekeeper concerned achieves an entrenched and durable position in its operations. With respect to such emerging gatekeepers, the Commission should take into account that this status is in principle of a temporary nature, and it should therefore be decided at a given moment whether such a provider of core platform services should be subjected to the full set of gatekeeper obligations because it has acquired an entrenched and durable position, or conditions for designation are ultimately not met and therefore all previously imposed obligations should be waived.
- (77) The advisory committee established in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182//2011 should also deliver opinions on certain individual decisions of the Commission issued under this Regulation. In order to ensure contestable and fair markets in the digital sector across the Union where gatekeepers are present, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty should be delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation. In particular, delegated acts should be adopted in respect of the methodology for determining the quantitative thresholds for designation of gatekeepers under this Regulation ~~and in respect of the update of the obligations laid down in this Regulation where, based on a market investigation the Commission has identified the need for updating the obligations addressing practices that limit the~~

~~contestability of core platform services or are unfair.~~ It is of particular importance that the Commission carries out appropriate consultations and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016¹. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

¹ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making (OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p.1).

Compromise Amendment D

on future-proofing replacing all relevant amendments, including AMs 7, 21-24, 78-87, 331-351, 203-205, 912-1044, ECON: 23, 48, 50-53, 135-137, 149-158, ITRE: 17, 42-44, 153-155, 168-180 CULT: 13, 34, 92-96, JURI: 20, 44-46, 124-125, 139-148, LIBE: 5, 21, 56, 60, TRAN: 17-20, 53, 60-64

Article 10

Updating obligations for gatekeepers

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 34 ~~37 to update~~ **amending** the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6 **by adding obligations** where, based on a market investigation pursuant to Article 17, it has identified ~~the need for new obligations~~ **that this is needed in order to address** addressing practices that limit the contestability of core platform services or are unfair in the same way as the practices addressed by the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6. **Those delegated acts may only add new obligations to those listed under Articles 5 and 6.**
- 1a. **The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 37 supplementing this Regulation in respect of the obligations laid down in Article 5 and 6. Those delegated acts shall provide for only the following:**
 - (a) **the extent to which an obligation applies to certain core platform services;**
 - (b) **the extent to which an obligation applies only to a subset of business users or end users; or**
 - (c) **how the obligations shall be performed in order to ensure the effectiveness of those obligations**
- ~~1.2.~~ A practice within the meaning of paragraph 1 shall be considered to be unfair or limit the contestability of core platform services where:
 - (a) there is an imbalance of rights and obligations on business users and the gatekeeper is obtaining an advantage from business users that is disproportionate to the service provided by the gatekeeper to business users **or end users**; or
 - (b) the contestability of markets is weakened as a consequence of such a practice engaged in by gatekeepers.
- 2a. **In relation to the obligation laid down in article 6(1) fb, the Commission shall adopt in 18 months after the entry into force of this regulation a delegated act defining the appropriate scope and features for the interconnection of the gatekeepers online social networking services as well as standards or technical specifications of such interconnection. Such standards or technical specifications shall ensure high level of security and protection of personal data. When developing standards or technical specifications the Commission may consult standardisation bodies or other relevant stakeholders as foreseen in the in Regulation (EU) 1025/2012.**

Article 14
Opening of a market investigation

1. When the Commission intends to carry out a market investigation in view of the possible adoption of decisions pursuant to Articles 15, 16 and 17, it shall adopt a decision opening a market investigation.
 2. The opening decision shall specify:
 - (a) the date of opening of the investigation;
 - (b) the description of the issue to which the investigation relates to;
 - (c) the purpose of the investigation.
 3. The Commission may reopen a market investigation that it has closed where:
 - (a) there has been a material change in any of the facts on which the decision was based; *or*
 - (b) the decision was based on incomplete, incorrect or misleading information provided by the undertakings concerned.
- 3.a** *The Commission may also ask one or more competent national authorities to support its market investigation.*

Article 15
Market investigation for designating gatekeepers

1. The Commission may conduct a market investigation for the purpose of examining whether a provider of core platform services should be designated as a gatekeeper pursuant to Article 3(6), or in order to identify core platform services for a gatekeeper pursuant to Article 3(7). ~~It~~ **The Commission shall conclude** ~~shall endeavour to conclude its investigation by adopting a decision in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4) within twelve months from the opening of the market investigation.~~
2. In the course of a market investigation pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission shall ~~endeavour to~~ communicate its preliminary findings to the provider of core platform services concerned **as soon as possible and in any case no later than** ~~within~~ six months from the opening of the investigation. In the preliminary findings, the Commission shall explain whether it considers, on a provisional basis, that the provider of core platform services should be designated as a gatekeeper pursuant to Article 3(6).
- ~~3. Where the provider of core platform services satisfies the thresholds set out in Article 3(2), but has presented significantly substantiated arguments in accordance with Article 3(4), the Commission shall endeavour to conclude the market investigation within five months from the opening of the market investigation by a decision pursuant to paragraph 1. In that case the Commission shall endeavour to communicate its preliminary findings pursuant to paragraph 2 to the provider of core platform services within three months from the opening of the investigation.~~
4. When the Commission pursuant to Article 3(6) designates as a gatekeeper a provider of core platform services that does not yet enjoy an entrenched and durable position in its operations, but it is foreseeable that it will enjoy such a position in the near

future, it shall declare applicable to that gatekeeper ~~only~~ **the** obligations laid down in Article 5 ~~(b)~~ and Article 6 ~~(1) points (e), (f), (h) and (i)~~ as specified in the designation decision. ~~The Commission shall only declare applicable those obligations that are appropriate and necessary to prevent that the gatekeeper concerned achieves by unfair means an entrenched and durable position in its operations. The Commission shall review such a designation in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4.~~

Article 16

Market investigation into systematic non-compliance

1. ***The Commission may conduct a market investigation for the purpose of examining whether a gatekeeper has engaged in systematic non-compliance.*** Where the market investigation shows that a gatekeeper has systematically infringed the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6 ~~and has further strengthened or extended its gatekeeper position in relation to the characteristics under Article 3(1),~~ the Commission may ~~by decision adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4)~~ impose on such **that** gatekeeper **any such** behavioural or structural remedies which are ~~proportionate to the infringement committed~~ **effective** and necessary to ensure compliance with this Regulation. The Commission shall, **where appropriate, be entitled to require the remedies to be tested to optimise their effectiveness.** **The Commission shall** conclude its investigation by adopting a decision **as soon as possible and in any event no later than** twelve months from the opening of the market investigation.
 - 1a. ***Pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission may for a limited period restrict gatekeepers from making acquisitions in areas relevant to this Regulation provided that such restrictions are proportionate, and necessary in order to remedy the damage caused by repeated infringements or to prevent further damage to the contestability and fairness of the internal market.***
- ~~2. The Commission may only impose structural remedies pursuant to paragraph 1 either where there is no equally effective behavioural remedy or where any equally effective behavioural remedy would be more burdensome for the gatekeeper concerned than the structural remedy.~~
3. A gatekeeper shall be deemed to have engaged in a systematic non-compliance with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6, where the Commission has issued at least ~~three~~ **two** non-compliance or fining decisions pursuant to Articles 25 and 26 respectively against a gatekeeper in relation to any of its core platform services within a period of ~~five~~ **ten** years prior to the adoption of the decision opening a market investigation in view of the possible adoption of a decision pursuant to this Article.
- ~~4. A gatekeeper shall be deemed to have further strengthened or extended its gatekeeper position in relation to the characteristics under Article 3(1), where its impact on the internal market has further increased, its importance as a gateway for business users to reach end users has further increased or the gatekeeper enjoys a further entrenched and durable position in its operations.~~
5. The Commission shall communicate its objections to the gatekeeper concerned **as soon as possible and in any event no later than** ~~within six~~ **four** months from the opening of the investigation. In its objections, the Commission shall explain whether it preliminarily considers that the conditions of paragraph 1 are met and which remedy

or remedies it ~~preliminarily~~ considers *on a preliminary basis, to be effective and necessary and proportionate*.

6. ~~In the course of the market investigation, the Commission may at any time during the market investigation~~ extend its duration where ~~the~~ *such* extension is justified on objective grounds and proportionate. The extension may apply to the deadline by which the Commission has to issue its objections, or to the deadline for adoption of the final decision. The total duration of any extension or extensions pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed six months. ~~The Commission may consider commitments pursuant to Article 23 and make them binding in its decision.~~

6 a. In order to ensure effective compliance by the gatekeeper with its obligations laid down in Articles 5 or 6, the Commission shall regularly review the remedies that it imposes in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article. The Commission shall be entitled to modify those remedies if, following an investigation, it finds that they are not effective.

Article 17

Market investigation into new services and new practices

The Commission may conduct a market investigation with the purpose of examining whether one or more services within the digital sector should be added to the list of core platform services or to detect types of practices that may limit the contestability of core platform services or may be unfair and which are not effectively addressed by this Regulation. It shall issue a public report at the latest within ~~24~~ **18** months from the opening of the market investigation.

Where appropriate, that report shall:

- (a) be accompanied by a proposal to amend this Regulation in order to include additional services within the digital sector in the list of core platform services laid down in point 2 of Article 2;
 - (b) be accompanied by a delegated act amending Articles 5 or 6 as provided for in Article 10.
- (ba) The Commission shall be entitled to impose interim measures if there is a risk of serious and immediate damage for business users or end users of gatekeepers.*

CORRESPONDING RECITALS

33, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67

- (33) The obligations laid down in this Regulation are limited to what is necessary and justified to address the unfairness of the identified practices by gatekeepers and to ensure contestability in relation to core platform services provided by gatekeepers. Therefore, the obligations should correspond to those practices that are considered unfair by taking into account the features of the digital sector and where experience gained, for example in the enforcement of the EU competition rules, shows that they have a particularly negative direct impact on the business users and end users. *The obligations laid down in the Regulation should take into account the nature of the core platform services provided and the presence of different business models.* In

addition, it is necessary to provide for the possibility of a regulatory dialogue with gatekeepers to tailor those obligations that are likely to require specific implementing measures in order to ensure their effectiveness and proportionality. The obligations should only be updated after a thorough investigation on the nature and impact of specific practices that may be newly identified, ~~following an in-depth investigation~~, as unfair or limiting contestability in the same manner as the unfair practices laid down in this Regulation while potentially escaping the scope of the current set of obligations.

- (62) In order to ensure the full and lasting achievement of the objectives of this Regulation, the Commission should be able to assess whether a provider of core platform services should be designated as a gatekeeper without meeting the quantitative thresholds laid down in this Regulation; whether systematic non-compliance by a gatekeeper warrants imposing additional remedies; ~~and~~ whether the list of obligations addressing unfair practices by gatekeepers should be reviewed; and *whether* additional practices that are similarly unfair and limiting the contestability of digital markets ~~should~~ *need to be identified investigated*. Such assessment should be based on market investigations to be ~~run~~ *carried out* in an appropriate timeframe, by using clear procedures and *binding* deadlines, in order to support the ex ante effect of this Regulation on contestability and fairness in the digital sector, and to provide the requisite degree of legal certainty.
- (64) The Commission should investigate and assess whether additional behavioural, or, where appropriate, structural remedies are justified, in order to ensure that the gatekeeper cannot frustrate the objectives of this Regulation by systematically ~~non-compliance~~ ~~not complying~~ *failing to comply* with one or several of the obligations laid down in this Regulation, ~~which has further strengthened its gatekeeper position. This would be the case if the gatekeeper's size in the internal market has further increased; economic dependency of business users and end users on the gatekeeper's core platform services has further strengthened as their number has further increased and the gatekeeper benefits from increased entrenchment of its position.~~ The Commission should therefore in such cases *of systematic non-compliance* have the power to impose any remedy, whether behavioural or structural *that is necessary to ensure effective compliance with this Regulation. The Commission might prohibit gatekeepers from engaging on acquisitions (including "killer-acquisitions") in certain the areas relevant to this regulation such as digital or to the use of data related sectors e.g. gaming, research institutes, consumer goods, fitness devices, health tracking financial services, and for a limited period of time where this is necessary and proportionate to undue the damage caused by repeated infringements or to prevent further damage to the contestability and fairness of the internal market. In doing so, the Commission might take into account different elements, such as likely network effects, data consolidation, and possible long-term effects or whether and when the acquisition of targets with specific data resources can significantly put in danger the contestability and the competitiveness of the markets through horizontal, vertical or conglomerate effects.* ~~, having due regard to the principle of proportionality. Structural remedies, such as legal, functional or structural separation, including the divestiture of a business, or parts of it, should only be imposed either where there is no equally effective behavioural remedy or where any equally effective behavioural remedy would be more burdensome for the undertaking concerned than the structural remedy. Changes to the structure of an undertaking as it existed before the systematic non-compliance was established would only be proportionate where there is a substantial risk that this systematic non-compliance results from the very structure of the undertaking concerned.~~

- (65) The services and practices in core platform services and markets in which these intervene can change quickly and to a significant extent. ~~For example, it is possible that the Commission will soon need to assess whether new services such as voice-enabled, need to be added to the list of core platform services.~~ To ensure that this Regulation remains up to date and constitutes an effective and holistic regulatory response to the problems posed by gatekeepers, it is important to provide for a regular review of the lists of core platform services as well as of the obligations provided for in this Regulation. This is particularly important to ensure that behaviour that may limit the contestability of core platform services or is unfair is identified. While it is important to conduct a review on a regular basis, given the dynamically changing nature of the digital sector, in order to ensure legal certainty as to the regulatory conditions, any reviews should be conducted within a reasonable and appropriate time-frame. Market investigations should also ensure that the Commission has a solid evidentiary basis on which it can assess whether it should propose to amend this Regulation in order to expand, or further detail, the lists of core platform services. They should equally ensure that the Commission has a solid evidentiary basis on which it can assess whether it should propose to amend the obligations laid down in this Regulation or whether it should adopt a delegated act updating such obligations.
- (65a) *Interim measures can be an important tool to ensure that, while an investigation is ongoing, the infringement being investigated does not lead to serious and immediate damage for business users or end users of gatekeepers. In case of urgency, where a risk of serious and immediate damage for business users or end-users of gatekeepers could result from new practices that may undermine contestability of core platform services, the Commission should be empowered to impose interim measures by temporarily imposing obligations to the gatekeeper concerned. These interim measures should be limited to what is necessary and justified. They should apply pending the conclusion of the market investigation and the corresponding final decision of the Commission pursuant to Article 17.***
- (66) In the event that gatekeepers engage in behaviour that is unfair or that limits the contestability of the core platform services that are already designated under this Regulation but without these behaviours being explicitly covered by the obligations, the Commission should be able to update this Regulation through delegated acts. Such updates by way of delegated act should be subject to the same investigatory standard and therefore following a market investigation. The Commission should also apply a predefined standard in identifying such behaviours. This legal standard should ensure that the type of obligations that gatekeepers may at any time face under this Regulation are sufficiently predictable.
- ~~(67) Where, in the course of a proceeding into non-compliance or an investigation into systemic non-compliance, a gatekeeper offers commitments to the Commission, the latter should be able to adopt a decision making these commitments binding on the gatekeeper concerned, where it finds that the commitments ensure effective compliance with the obligations of this Regulation. This decision should also find that there are no longer grounds for action by the Commission.~~

Compromise Amendment E

on compliance replacing all relevant amendments, including AM 7-18, 51-65, 592-838, 951-970, 971-976 , ECON: 20-21, 24-42, 47, 101-123, 142-148, ITRE: 15, 18-39, 41, 99-131, 159-167, CULT: 14-31, 33, 55-87, JURI: 19, 21-41, 88-115, 130-138, LIBE: 6-18, 34-50, 59, TRAN: 13, 15-16, 40-47, 57-59

Article 5

Obligations for gatekeepers

In respect of each of its core platform services identified pursuant to Article 3(7), a gatekeeper shall:

- (a) refrain from combining ***and cross-using*** personal data sourced from these core platform services with personal data from any other services offered by the gatekeeper or with personal data from third-party services, and from signing in end users to other services of the gatekeeper in order to combine personal data, unless the end user has been presented with the specific choice ***in a explicit and clear manner***, and ***has*** provided consent in the sense of Regulation (EU) 2016/679;
- (b) ~~allow~~ ***refrain from applying contractual obligations that prevent*** business users ~~to offer~~ ***from offering*** the same products or services to end users through third party online intermediation services ***or through their own direct online sales channel*** at prices or conditions that are different from those offered through the online intermediation services of the gatekeeper;
- (c) allow business users to ***communicate and*** promote offers ***including under different purchasing conditions*** to end users acquired via the core platform service ***or through other channels***, and to conclude contracts with these end users ***or receive payments for services provided*** regardless of whether ***they use*** for that purpose ~~they use~~ the core platform services of the gatekeeper ~~or not, and allow end users to access and use, through the core platform services of the gatekeeper, content, subscriptions, features or other items by using the software application of a business user, where these items have been acquired by the end users from the relevant business user without using the core platform services of the gatekeeper;~~
- (ca) ***allow end users to access and use, through the core platform services of the gatekeeper, content, subscriptions, features or other items by using the software application of a business user, even where these items have been acquired by the end users from the relevant business user without using the core platform services of the gatekeeper, unless the gatekeeper can demonstrate that such access undermines end users data protection or cybersecurity.***
- (d) refrain from ***directly or indirectly*** preventing or restricting business users ***or end users*** from raising issues with any relevant public authority, ***including national courts***, relating to any practice of gatekeepers;
- (e) refrain from requiring business users to use, offer or interoperate with an identification service ***or any other ancillary service*** of the gatekeeper in the context of services offered by the business users using the core platform services of that gatekeeper;

- (f) ~~refrain from requiring~~ **not require** business users or end users to subscribe to or register with any other core platform services ~~identified pursuant to Article 3 or which meets the thresholds in Article 3(2)(b)~~ as a condition **for being able to use**, access, sign up **for** or registering **with** ~~to~~ any of their core platform services identified pursuant to that Article;
- (g) provide advertisers and publishers **or third parties authorised by the advertisers or publishers**, to which it supplies **digital** advertising services, ~~upon their request with information concerning~~ **free of charge, high-quality, effective, continuous and real-time access to full information on the visibility and availability of advertisement portfolio, including:**
- (i) **the pricing conditions concerning the bids placed by advertisers and advertising intermediaries;**
 - (ii) **the price-setting mechanisms and schemes for the calculation of the fees including the non-price criteria in the auction process;**
 - (iii) the price **and fees** paid by the advertiser and publisher, **including any deductions and surcharges;** ~~as well as~~
 - (iv) the amount ~~or~~ **and** remuneration paid to the publisher, for the publishing of a given advertisement; and
 - (v) **the amount and remuneration paid to the publisher** for each of the relevant advertising services provided by the gatekeeper.
- ~~(g)a) refrain from using, in competition with business users, any data not publicly available, which is generated through or in the context of activities by those business users, including by the end users of these business users, of its the use of the relevant core platform services or ancillary services provided by those business users including by the end users of these business users of its core platform services or ancillary services or provided by those business users of its core platform services or ancillary services or by the end users of these business users; [moved from Article 6]~~
- ~~(g)b) allow and technically enable end users to un-install any pre-installed software applications on its core platform service an operating system that the gatekeeper provides or effectively controls as easily as any software application installed by end users at any stage, and to change default settings on an operating system that direct or steer end users to services or products offered by the gatekeeper, without prejudice to the possibility for a gatekeeper to restrict such un-installation in relation to software applications that are essential for the functioning of the operating system or of the device and which cannot technically be offered on a standalone basis by third-parties; [moved from Article 6.]~~
2. For the purposes of point (g)a of paragraph 1 data that is not publicly available shall include any aggregated and non-aggregated data generated by business users that can be inferred from, or collected through, the commercial activities of business users or their customers on the core platform service or ancillary services of the gatekeeper. [moved from Article 6]

Article 6

Obligations for gatekeepers susceptible of being further specified

1. In respect of each of its core platform services identified pursuant to Article 3(7), a gatekeeper shall:
 - ~~(a) refrain from using, in competition with business users, any data not publicly available, which is generated through activities by those business users, including by the end users of these business users, of its core platform services or provided by those business users of its core platform services or by the end users of these business users; [Moved to Article 5]~~
 - ~~(b) allow end users to un-install any pre-installed software applications on its core platform service without prejudice to the possibility for a gatekeeper to restrict such un-installation in relation to software applications that are essential for the functioning of the operating system or of the device and which cannot technically be offered on a standalone basis by third parties; [Moved to Article 5]~~
 - aa) *for its own commercial purposes, and the placement of third-party advertising in its own services, refrain from combining personal data for the purpose of delivering targeted or micro-targeted advertising, except if a clear, explicit, renewed, informed consent has been given to the gatekeeper in line with the procedure foreseen in the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 by an end-user that is not a minor.*
 - (c) allow *and technically enable* the installation and effective use of third party software applications or software application stores using, or interoperating with, operating systems of that gatekeeper and allow these software applications or software application stores to be accessed by means other than the *relevant* core platform services of that gatekeeper. The gatekeeper shall, *where relevant, ask the end users to decide whether they want to make the downloaded application or application store their default setting. The gatekeeper shall* not be prevented from taking *measures that are both necessary and proportionate* ~~measures~~ to ensure that third party software applications or software application stores do not endanger the integrity of the hardware or operating system provided by the gatekeeper *or undermine end-user data protection or cyber security provided that such necessary and proportionate measures are duly justified by the gatekeeper;*
 - (d) ~~refrain from treating~~ *not treat* more favourably in ranking *or other settings*, services and products offered by the gatekeeper itself or by any third party belonging to the same undertaking compared to similar services or products of third party and apply *transparent*, fair and non-discriminatory conditions to such *third party services or products ranking;*
 - (e) ~~not refrain from restrict~~ technically or *otherwise restricting* the ability of end users to switch between and subscribe to different software applications and services ~~to be accessed using the operating system of the gatekeeper~~, including as regards the choice of Internet access provider for end users;
 - ea) *refrain from practices that obstruct the possibility for the end-user to unsubscribe from a core platform service.*

- (f) allow business users, ~~and~~ providers of services **and providers of hardware ancillary free of charge** access to and interoperability with the same **hardware and software features accessed or controlled via an** operating system, ~~hardware or software features that are available or used in the provision by the gatekeeper of any ancillary services~~ **provided that the operating system is identified pursuant to Article 3(7), that are available to services or hardware provided by the gatekeeper. Providers of ancillary services shall further be allowed access to and interoperability with the same operating system, hardware or software features, regardless of whether those software features are part of an operating system, that are available to ancillary services provided by a gatekeeper. The gatekeeper shall not be prevented from taking indispensable measures to ensure that interoperability does not compromise the integrity of the operating system, hardware or software features provided by the gatekeeper or undermine end-user data protection or cyber security provided that such indispensable measures are duly justified by the gatekeeper.**
- fa **allow any providers of number independent interpersonal communication services upon their request and free of charge to interconnect with the gatekeepers number independent interpersonal communication services identified pursuant to Article 3(7). Interconnection shall be provided under objectively the same conditions and quality that are available or used by the gatekeeper, its subsidiaries or its partners, thus allowing for a functional interaction with these services, while guaranteeing a high level of security and personal data protection.**
- fb **allow any providers of social network services upon their request and free of charge to interconnect with the gatekeepers social network services identified pursuant to Article 3(7). Interconnection shall be provided under objectively the same conditions and quality that are available or used by the gatekeeper, its subsidiaries or its partners, thus allowing for a functional interaction with these services, while guaranteeing a high level of security and personal data protection. The implementation of this obligation is subjected to the Commission's specification under Article 10 (2) b.**
- (g) provide advertisers and publishers, **and third parties authorised by advertisers and publishers** upon their request and free of charge, with access to the performance measuring tools of the gatekeeper and the information necessary for advertisers and publishers to carry out their own independent verification of the ad inventory **including aggregated and non-aggregated data and performance data in a manner that would allow advertisers and publishers to run their own verification and measurement tools to assess performance of the core services provided for by the gatekeepers;**
- (h) provide **end users or third parties authorised by an end user, upon their request and free of charge, with** effective portability of data **provided by the end user or** generated through ~~their~~ ~~the~~ activity ~~of a business user or end user~~ **in the context of the use on the relevant core platform service and shall, in particular, including by** providing **free of charge** tools ~~for end users~~ to facilitate the **effective** exercise of **such** data portability, in line with Regulation EU 2016/679, **and** including by the provision of continuous and real-time access;

- (i) provide business users, or third parties authorised by a business user, ***upon their request***, free of charge, with ~~effective, high-quality~~, continuous and real-time access and use of aggregated ~~and~~ or non-aggregated data, that is provided for or generated in the context of the use of the relevant core platform services ***or ancillary services offered by the gatekeeper*** by those business users and the end users engaging with the products or services provided by those business users; ***This shall include, at the request of the business user, the possibility and necessary tools to access and analyse data “in-situ” without a transfer from the gatekeeper.*** for personal data, provide access and use only where directly connected with the use effectuated by the end user in respect of the products or services offered by the relevant business user through the relevant core platform service, and when the end user opts in to such sharing with a consent in the sense of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679;
 - (j) provide to any third party providers of online search engines, upon their request, with access on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms to ranking, query, click and view data in relation to free and paid search generated by end users on online search engines of the gatekeeper, subject to anonymisation for the query, click and view data that constitutes personal data;
 - (k) apply ***transparent***, fair, ***reasonable*** and non-discriminatory general conditions of access ***and conditions that are not less favourable than the conditions applied to its own service*** for business users to ***its core platform services*** ~~its software application store~~ designated pursuant to Article 3 of this Regulation.
2. ~~For the purposes of point (a) of paragraph 1 data that is not publicly available shall include any aggregated and non-aggregated data generated by business users that can be inferred from, or collected through, the commercial activities of business users or their customers on the core platform service of the gatekeeper. [moved this to Article 5]~~

Article 12

Obligation to inform about concentrations

1. A gatekeeper shall inform the Commission ~~and competent national authorities~~ of any intended concentration within the meaning of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 involving another provider of core platform services or of any other services ~~provided in the digital sector~~ irrespective of whether it is notifiable to a Union competition authority under Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 or to a competent national competition authority under national merger rules.

A gatekeeper shall inform the Commission of such a concentration prior to its implementation and following the conclusion of the agreement, the announcement of the public bid, or the acquisition of a controlling interest.

The Commission shall inform competent national authorities of such notifications

2. The notification pursuant to paragraph 1 shall at least describe for the acquisition targets their EEA and worldwide annual turnover, for any relevant core platform services their respective EEA annual turnover, their number of yearly active business users and the number of monthly active end users, as well as the rationale of the intended concentration.

3. If, following any concentration as provided in paragraph 1, additional core platform services individually satisfy the thresholds in point (b) of Article 3(2), the gatekeeper concerned shall inform the Commission thereof within three months from the implementation of the concentration and provide the Commission with the information referred to in Article 3(2).
- 4a** *The competent national authorities may use the information received under paragraph 1 to request the Commission to examine the concentration pursuant to Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004.*

*Article 13
Obligation of an audit*

Within six months after its designation pursuant to Article 3, a gatekeeper shall submit to the Commission **and the High Level Group of Digital Regulators** an independently audited description of any techniques for profiling of consumers that the gatekeeper applies to or across its core platform services identified pursuant to Article 3. This description shall be updated at least annually. ***The Commission shall develop, in consultation with the EU Data Protection Supervisor, the European Data Protection Board, civil society and experts, the standards and procedure of the audit.***

The gatekeeper shall make publicly available an overview of the audited description referred to in the first paragraph, taking into account the need to respect business secrecy.

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- (34) The combination of these different mechanisms for imposing and adapting obligations should ensure that the obligations do not extend beyond observed unfair practices, while at the same time ensuring that new or evolving practices can be the subject of intervention where necessary and justified.
- (35) The obligations laid down in this Regulation are necessary to address identified public policy concerns, there being no alternative and less restrictive measures that would effectively achieve the same result, having regard to need to safeguard public order, protect privacy and fight fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices.
- (36) The conduct of combining end user data from different sources or signing in users to different services of gatekeepers gives them potential advantages in terms of accumulation of data, thereby raising barriers to entry. To ensure that gatekeepers do not unfairly undermine the contestability of core platform services, they should enable their end users to freely choose to opt-in to such business practices by offering a less personalised ***but equivalent*** alternative. ***The less personalized alternative should not be different or of degraded quality compared to the service offered to the end users who provide consent to the combining of their personal data.*** The possibility should cover all possible sources of personal data, including own services of the gatekeeper as well as third party websites, and should be proactively presented to the end user in an explicit, clear and straightforward manner.
- (36)a** ***Minors merit specific protection with regard to their personal data, in particular as regards the use for the purposes of marketing or creating personality or user profiles***

and the collection of personal data. Therefore, personal data of minors collected or otherwise generated by gatekeepers shall not be processed for commercial purposes, such as direct marketing, profiling and behaviourally targeted advertising.

- 36 b) *In order to safeguard a fair end user choice, refusing consent should not be more difficult than giving consent. In addition, to safeguard the end users rights and freedoms, the processing of personal data for advertising purposes shall be in line with the requirements of data minimisation under Article 5 (1)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679; furthermore, the processing of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, as well as the data concerning health or a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation shall be strictly limited and subject to the appropriate safeguards as outlined in Article 9 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679.*
- (37) Because of their position, gatekeepers might in certain cases, ***through the imposition of contractual terms and conditions***, restrict the ability of business users of their online intermediation services to offer their goods or services to end users under more favourable conditions, including price, through other online intermediation services ***or through direct business channels***. Such restrictions have a significant deterrent effect on the business users of gatekeepers in terms of their use of alternative online intermediation services ***or direct distribution channels***, limiting inter-platform contestability, which in turn limits choice of alternative online intermediation channels for end users. To ensure that business users of online intermediation services of gatekeepers can freely choose alternative online intermediation services ***or other direct distribution channels*** and differentiate the conditions under which they offer their products or services to their end users, it should not be accepted that gatekeepers limit business users from choosing to differentiate commercial conditions, including price. Such a restriction should apply to any measure with equivalent effect, such as for example increased commission rates or de-listing of the offers of business users.
- (38) To prevent further reinforcing their dependence on the core platform services of gatekeepers, the business users of these gatekeepers should be free in promoting and choosing the distribution channel they consider most appropriate to interact with any end users that these business users have already acquired through core platform services provided by the gatekeeper ***or through other channels***. ***An acquired end user is an end user who has already entered into a contractual relationship with the business user. Such contractual relationships may be on either a paid or a free basis (e.g., free trials, free service tiers) and may have been entered into either on the gatekeeper's core platform service or through any other channel.*** Conversely, end users should also be free to choose offers of such business users and to enter into contracts with them either through core platform services of the gatekeeper, if applicable, or from a direct distribution channel of the business user or another indirect distribution channel such business user may use. This should apply to the promotion of offers, ***communication*** and conclusion of contracts between business users and end users. Moreover, the ability of end users to freely acquire content, subscriptions, features or other items outside the core platform services of the gatekeeper should not be undermined or restricted. In particular, it should be avoided that gatekeepers restrict end users from access to and use of such services via a software application running on their core platform service. For example, subscribers to online content purchased outside a software application download or purchased from a software application store should not be prevented from accessing such online content on a software application on the gatekeeper's core

platform service simply because it was purchased outside such software application or software application store.

- (39) To safeguard a fair commercial environment and protect the contestability of the digital sector it is important to safeguard the right of business users **and end users, including whistleblowers** to raise concerns about unfair behaviour by gatekeepers with any relevant administrative or other public authorities. For example, business users **or end users** may want to complain about different types of unfair practices, such as discriminatory access conditions, unjustified closing of business user accounts or unclear grounds for product de-listings. Any practice that would in any way inhibit **or hinder** such a possibility of raising concerns or seeking available redress, for instance by means of confidentiality clauses in agreements or other written terms, should therefore be prohibited. This should be without prejudice to the right of business users and gatekeepers to lay down in their agreements the terms of use including the use of lawful complaints-handling mechanisms, including any use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms or of the jurisdiction of specific courts in compliance with respective Union and national law. This should therefore also be without prejudice to the role gatekeepers play in the fight against illegal content online.
- (40) **Gatekeepers offer a range of ancillary—Identification services. To ensure contestability, it is crucial that for business users are free to choose such ancillary services without having to fear any detrimental effects for the provision of the core platform service and to** conduct their business, as these can allow them not only to optimise services, to the extent allowed under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, but also to inject trust in online transactions, in compliance with Union or national law. Gatekeepers should therefore not use their position as provider of core platform services to require their dependent business users to **use, offer or include any ancillary service provided by the gatekeeper or a particular third party, where other ancillary services are available to such business users.** ~~include~~ Gatekeepers should **eventually** not use their position as provider of core platform services to require their dependent business users to include any identification services provided by the gatekeeper itself as part of the provision of services or products by these business users to their end users, where other identification services are available to such business users.
- (41) Gatekeepers should not restrict the free choice of end users by technically preventing switching between or subscription to different software applications and services. Gatekeepers should therefore ensure a free choice irrespective of whether they are the manufacturer of any hardware by means of which such software applications or services are accessed and should not raise artificial technical barriers so as to make switching **more difficult** ~~impossible~~ or ineffective. The mere offering of a given product or service to end users, including by means of pre-installation, as well the improvement of end user offering, such as better prices or increased quality, would not in itself constitute a barrier to switching.
- (42) The conditions under which gatekeepers provide online advertising services to business users including both advertisers and publishers are often non-transparent and opaque. This opacity is partly linked to the practices of a few platforms, but is also due to the sheer complexity of modern day programmatic advertising. The sector is considered to

¹ Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2002 concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector (Directive on privacy and electronic communications) (OJ L 201, 31.7.2002, p. 37).

have become more non-transparent after the introduction of new privacy legislation, and is expected to become even more opaque with the announced removal of third-party cookies. This often leads to a lack of information and knowledge for advertisers and publishers about the conditions of the advertising services they purchased and undermines their ability to switch to alternative providers of online advertising services. Furthermore, the costs of online advertising are likely to be higher than they would be in a fairer, more transparent and contestable platform environment. These higher costs are likely to be reflected in the prices that end users pay for many daily products and services relying on the use of online advertising. Transparency obligations should therefore require gatekeepers to provide advertisers and publishers to whom they supply online advertising services, ***with free of charge, effective, high-quality, continuous and real-time*** when requested and to the extent possible, with information that allows both sides to understand the price paid for each of the different advertising services provided as part of the relevant advertising value chain ***and the availability and visibility of advertisement***.

- (43) A gatekeeper may in certain circumstances have a dual role as a provider of core platform services whereby it provides a core platform service to its business users, while also competing with those same business users in the provision of the same or similar services or products to the same end users. In these circumstances, a gatekeeper may take advantage of its dual role to use data, generated from transactions by its business users on the core platform, for the purpose of its own services that offer similar services to that of its business users. This may be the case, for instance, where a gatekeeper provides an online marketplace or app store to business users, and at the same time offer services as an online retailer or provider of application software against those business users. To prevent gatekeepers from unfairly benefitting from their dual role, it should be ensured that they refrain from using any aggregated or non-aggregated data, which may include anonymised and personal data that is not publicly available to offer similar services to those of their business users. This obligation should apply to the gatekeeper as a whole, including but not limited to its business unit that competes with the business users of a core platform service.
- (44) Business users may also purchase advertising services from a provider of core platform services for the purpose of providing goods and services to end users. In this case, it may occur that the data are not generated on the core platform service, but are provided to the core platform service by the business user or are generated based on its operations through the core platform service concerned. In certain instances, that core platform service providing advertising may have a dual role, as intermediary and as provider of advertising services. Accordingly, the obligation prohibiting a dual role gatekeeper from using data of business users should apply also with respect to the data that a core platform service has received from businesses for the purpose of providing advertising services related to that core platform service. ***Moreover the gatekeeper should refrain from disclosing any commercially sensitive information obtained in connection with one of its advertising services to any third party belonging to the same undertaking and from using such commercially sensitive information for any purposes other than the provision of the specific advertising service unless this is necessary for carrying out a business transaction.***
- (45) In relation to cloud computing services, this obligation should extend to data provided or generated by business users of the gatekeeper in the context of their use of the cloud computing service of the gatekeeper, or through its software application store that allows end users of cloud computing services access to software applications. This

obligation should not affect the right of gatekeepers to use aggregated data for providing ancillary data analytics services, subject to compliance with Regulation 2016/679 and Directive 2002/58/EC as well as with the relevant obligations in this Regulation concerning ancillary services.

- (46) A gatekeeper may use different means to favour its own services or products on its core platform service, to the detriment of the same or similar services that end users could obtain through third parties. This may for instance be the case where certain software applications or services are pre-installed by a gatekeeper. To enable end user choice, gatekeepers should not prevent end users from un-installing any pre-installed software applications on its core platform service and thereby favour their own software applications. ***The gatekeeper may restrict such un-installation when such applications are essential to the functioning of the operating system or the device.***
- (47) The rules that the gatekeepers set for the distribution of software applications may in certain circumstances restrict the ability of end users to install and effectively use third party software applications or software application stores on operating systems or hardware of the relevant gatekeeper and restrict the ability of end users to access these software applications or software application stores outside the core platform services of that gatekeeper. Such restrictions may limit the ability of developers of software applications to use alternative distribution channels and the ability of end users to choose between different software applications from different distribution channels and should be prohibited as unfair and liable to weaken the contestability of core platform services. ***To ensure contestability, the gatekeeper should prompt where relevant the end user to decide whether the downloaded application or app store should become the default.*** In order to ensure that third party software applications or software application stores do not endanger the integrity of the hardware or operating system provided by the gatekeeper the gatekeeper concerned may implement proportionate technical or contractual measures to achieve that goal if the gatekeeper demonstrates that such measures are necessary and justified and that there are no less restrictive means to safeguard the integrity of the hardware or operating system.
- (48) Gatekeepers are often vertically integrated and offer certain products or services to end users through their own core platform services, or through a business user over which they exercise control which frequently leads to conflicts of interest. This can include the situation whereby a gatekeeper offers its own online intermediation services through an online search engine. When offering those products or services on the core platform service, gatekeepers can reserve a better position to their own offering, in terms of ranking, as opposed to the products of third parties also operating on that core platform service. This can occur for instance with products or services, including other core platform services, which are ranked in the results communicated by online search engines, or which are partly or entirely embedded in online search engines results, groups of results specialised in a certain topic, displayed along with the results of an online search engine, which are considered or used by certain end users as a service distinct or additional to the online search engine. ***Such preferential or embedded display of a separate online intermediation service shall constitute a favouring irrespective of whether the information or results within the favoured groups of specialised results may also be provided by competing services and are as such ranked in a non-discriminatory way.*** Other instances are those of software applications which are distributed through software application stores, or products or services that are given prominence and display in the newsfeed of a social network, or products or services ranked in search results or displayed on an online marketplace. In those circumstances,

the gatekeeper is in a dual-role position as intermediary for third party providers and as direct provider of products or services of the gatekeeper *leading to conflicts of interest*. Consequently, these gatekeepers have the ability to undermine directly the contestability for those products or services on these core platform services, to the detriment of business users which are not controlled by the gatekeeper.

- (49) In such situations, the gatekeeper should not engage in any form of differentiated or preferential treatment in ranking on the core platform service, whether through legal, commercial or technical means, in favour of products or services it offers itself or through a business user which it controls. To ensure that this obligation is effective, it should also be ensured that the conditions that apply to such ranking are also generally fair. Ranking should in this context cover all forms of relative prominence, including display, rating, linking or voice results. To ensure that this obligation is effective and cannot be circumvented it should also apply to any measure that may have an equivalent effect to the differentiated or preferential treatment in ranking. ***In addition, to avoid any conflicts of interest, gatekeepers should be required to treat its own product or services, as a separate commercial entity that is commercially viable as a stand-alone service.*** The guidelines adopted pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 should also facilitate the implementation and enforcement of this obligation.²
- (50) Gatekeepers should not restrict or prevent the free choice of end users by technically preventing switching between or subscription to different software applications and services. This would allow more providers to offer their services, thereby ultimately providing greater choice to the end user. Gatekeepers should ensure a free choice irrespective of whether they are the manufacturer of any hardware by means of which such software applications or services are accessed and shall not raise artificial technical barriers so as to make switching impossible or ineffective. The mere offering of a given product or service to consumers, including by means of pre-installation, as well as the improvement of the offering to end users, such as price reductions or increased quality, should not be construed as constituting a prohibited barrier to switching.
- (51) Gatekeepers can hamper the ability of end users to access online content and services including software applications. Therefore, rules should be established to ensure that the rights of end users to access an open internet are not compromised by the conduct of gatekeepers. Gatekeepers can also technically limit the ability of end users to effectively switch between different Internet access service providers, in particular through their control over operating systems or hardware. This distorts the level playing field for Internet access services and ultimately harms end users. It should therefore be ensured that gatekeepers do not unduly restrict end users in choosing their Internet access service provider.
- (52) Gatekeepers may also have a dual role as developers of operating systems and device manufacturers, including any technical functionality that such a device may have. For example, a gatekeeper that is a manufacturer of a device may restrict access to some of the functionalities in this device, such as near-field-communication technology and the software used to operate that technology, which may be required for the effective provision of an ancillary service by the gatekeeper as well as by any potential third party provider of such an ancillary service. Such access may equally be required by software applications related to the relevant ancillary services in order to effectively provide similar functionalities as those offered by gatekeepers. If such a dual role is

² Commission Notice: Guidelines on ranking transparency pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ C 424, 8.12.2020, p. 1).

used in a manner that prevents alternative providers of ancillary services or of software applications to have access under equal conditions to the same operating system, hardware or software features that are available or used in the provision by the gatekeeper of any ancillary services, this could significantly undermine innovation by providers of such ancillary services as well as choice for end users of such ancillary services. The gatekeepers should therefore be obliged to ensure access under equal conditions to, and interoperability with, the same operating system, hardware or software features that are available or used in the provision of any ancillary services by the gatekeeper.

- 52 a** *The lack of interconnection features among the gatekeeper services may substantially affect users choice and ability to switch due to the incapacity for end user to reconstruct social connections and networks provided by the gatekeeper even if multi-homing is possible. Therefore, it should be allowed for any providers of equivalent core platform services to interconnect with the gatekeepers number independent interpersonal communication services or social network services upon their request and free of charge. Interconnection shall be provided under the conditions and quality that are available or used by the gatekeeper, while ensuring a high level of security and personal data protection. In the particular case of number-dependant intercommunication services, interconnection requirements should mean giving the possibility for third-party providers to request access and interconnection for features such as text, video, voice and picture, while it should provide access and interconnection on basic features such as posts, likes and comments for social networking services. Interconnection measures of number-independent interpersonal communication services should be imposed in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Communications Code and particularly the conditions and procedures foreseen in Article 61 thereof. It should nevertheless presume that the providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services that has been designated as a gatekeeper, reaches the conditions required to trigger the procedures, namely they reach a significant level of coverage and user uptake, and should therefore provide for minimum applicable interoperability requirements.*
- (53) The conditions under which gatekeepers provide online advertising services to business users including both advertisers and publishers are often non-transparent and opaque. This often leads to a lack of information for advertisers and publishers about the effect of a given ad. To further enhance fairness, transparency and contestability of online advertising services designated under this Regulation as well as those that are fully integrated with other core platform services of the same provider, the designated gatekeepers should therefore provide advertisers and publishers **for entire disclosure and transparency of the parameters and data used for decision making, execution and measurement of the intermediation services**. A gatekeeper shall further provide when requested, with free of charge access to the performance measuring tools of the gatekeeper and the information necessary for advertisers, advertising agencies acting on behalf of a company placing advertising, as well as for publishers to carry out their own independent verification of the provision of the relevant online advertising services.
- (54) Gatekeepers benefit from access to vast amounts of data that they collect while providing the core platform services as well as other digital services. To ensure that gatekeepers do not undermine the contestability of core platform services as well as the innovation potential of the dynamic digital sector by restricting the ability of business users to effectively port their data, business users and end users should be granted

effective and immediate access to the data they provided or generated in the context of their use of the relevant core platform services of the gatekeeper, in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format. This should apply also to any other data at different levels of aggregation that may be necessary to effectively enable such portability. It should also be ensured that business users and end users can port that data in real time effectively, such as for example through high quality application programming interfaces. Facilitating switching or multi-homing should lead, in turn, to an increased choice for business users and end users and an incentive for gatekeepers and business users to innovate.

- (55) Business users that use large core platform services provided by gatekeepers and end users of such business users provide and generate a vast amount of data, including data inferred from such use. In order to ensure that business users have access to the relevant data thus generated, the gatekeeper should, upon their request, allow unhindered access, free of charge, to such data. Such access should also be given to third parties contracted by the business user, who are acting as processors of this data for the business user. Data provided or generated by the same business users and the same end users of these business users in the context of other services provided by the same gatekeeper may be concerned where this is inextricably linked to the relevant request. To this end, a gatekeeper should not use any contractual or other restrictions to prevent business users from accessing relevant data and should enable business users to obtain consent of their end users for such data access and retrieval, where such consent is required under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive 2002/58/EC. Gatekeepers should also facilitate access to these data in real time by means of appropriate technical measures, such as for example putting in place high quality application programming interfaces.
- (56) The value of online search engines to their respective business users and end users increases as the total number of such users increases. Providers of online search engines collect and store aggregated datasets containing information about what users searched for, and how they interacted with, the results that they were served. Providers of online search engine services collect these data from searches undertaken on their own online search engine service and, where applicable, searches undertaken on the platforms of their downstream commercial partners. Access by gatekeepers to such ranking, query, click and view data constitutes an important barrier to entry and expansion, which undermines the contestability of online search engine services. Gatekeepers should therefore be obliged to provide access, on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms, to these ranking, query, click and view data in relation to free and paid search generated by consumers on online search engine services to other providers of such services, so that these third-party providers can optimise their services and contest the relevant core platform services. Such access should also be given to third parties contracted by a search engine provider, who are acting as processors of this data for that search engine. When providing access to its search data, a gatekeeper should ensure the protection of the personal data of end users by appropriate means, without substantially degrading the quality or usefulness of the data.
- (57) In particular gatekeepers which provide access to *core platform services* serve as an important gateway for business users that seek to reach end users. In view of the imbalance in bargaining power between those gatekeepers and business users of their *core platform services*, those gatekeepers should not be allowed to impose general conditions, including pricing conditions, that would be unfair or lead to unjustified differentiation. Pricing or other general access conditions should be considered unfair if they lead to an imbalance of rights and obligations imposed on business users or

confer an advantage on the gatekeeper which is disproportionate to the service provided by the gatekeeper to business users or lead to a disadvantage for business users in providing the same or similar services as the gatekeeper. The following benchmarks can serve as a yardstick to determine the fairness of general access conditions: prices charged or conditions imposed for the same or similar services by other providers of *core platform services* ; prices charged or conditions imposed by the provider of the software application store for different related or similar services or to different types of end users; prices charged or conditions imposed by the provider of the software application store for the same service in different geographic regions; prices charged or conditions imposed by the provider of the software application store for the same service the gatekeeper offers to itself. This obligation should not establish an access right and it should be without prejudice to the ability of providers of *core platform services* to take the required responsibility in the fight against illegal and unwanted content as set out in Regulation [Digital Services Act].

Recital on Article 12

- (31) To ensure the effectiveness of the review of gatekeeper status as well as the possibility to adjust the list of core platform services provided by a gatekeeper, the gatekeepers should inform the Commission ~~and the competent national authorities~~ of all of their intended and concluded acquisitions of other providers of core platform services or any other services provided within the digital sector. Such information should not only serve the review process mentioned above, regarding the status of individual gatekeepers, but will also provide information that is crucial to monitoring broader contestability trends in the digital sector and can therefore be a useful factor for consideration in the context of the market investigations foreseen by this Regulation. *The Commission should inform competent national authorities of such notifications. The information gathered may be use to trigger the referral system set out in article 22 of the Regulation (EC) no. 139/2004.*

Recital on Article 13 - recital 61

- (61) The data protection and privacy interests of end users are relevant to any assessment of potential negative effects of the observed practice of gatekeepers to collect and accumulate large amounts of data from end users. Ensuring an adequate level of transparency of profiling practices employed by gatekeepers facilitates contestability of core platform services, by putting external pressure on gatekeepers to prevent making deep consumer profiling the industry standard, given that potential entrants or start-up providers cannot access data to the same extent and depth, and at a similar scale. Enhanced transparency should allow other providers of core platform services to differentiate themselves better through the use of superior privacy guaranteeing facilities. To ensure a minimum level of effectiveness of this transparency obligation, gatekeepers should at least provide a description of the basis upon which profiling is performed, including whether personal data and data derived from user activity is relied on, the processing applied, the purpose for which the profile is prepared and eventually used, the impact of such profiling on the gatekeeper's services, and the steps taken to enable end users to be aware of the relevant use of such profiling, as well as to seek their consent. *The expertise of consumer protection authorities', as members of the High Level Group of Digital Regulators, should be especially taken into consideration for assessing consumer profiling techniques. The Commission should*

develop, in consultation with the EU Data Protection Supervisor, the European Data Protection Board, civil society and experts, the standards and process of the audit.

Compromise Amendment F

regulatory dialogue and compliance replacing all relevant amendments, including AM 6, 7, 19, 20, 27, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 - 76, 106, 193, 199, 200, 201, 202-205, 311, 313, 319, 320-323, 324-327, 343, 344-347, 371, 701, 839-911, 930-950, ECON: 22, 43-46, 124-134, 138-141, ITRE: 16, 40, 132-152, 156-158, CULT: 32, 88-91, JURI: 42-43, 116-123, 126-129, LIBE: 19-20, 51-55, 57-58, TRAN: 14, 48-52, 54-56

Article 6a [Article 11 of the EC proposal]

Anti-circumvention

1. A gatekeeper shall ensure that the obligations of Articles 5 and 6 are fully and effectively complied with. ~~While the obligations of Articles 5 and 6 apply in respect of core platform services designated pursuant to Article 3, their implementation shall not be undermined by any behaviour of the undertaking to which the gatekeeper belongs, regardless of whether this behaviour is of a contractual, commercial, technical or any other nature.~~
 - 1a. While the obligations of Articles 5 and 6 apply in respect of core platform services designated pursuant to Article 3, a gatekeeper, including any undertaking to which the gatekeeper belongs, shall not engage in any behaviour regardless of whether is of a contractual, commercial, technical or any other nature, that, while formally, conceptually or technically distinct to a behaviour prohibited pursuant to Articles 5 and 6, is capable in practice of having an equivalent object or effect.*
 - 1 b The gatekeeper shall not engage in any behaviour discouraging interoperability by using technical protection measures, discriminatory terms of service, subjecting application programming interfaces to copyright or providing misleading information.*
2. Where consent for collecting, processing **and sharing** of personal data is required to ensure compliance with this Regulation, a gatekeeper shall take the necessary steps **either** to ~~either~~ enable business users to directly obtain the required consent to their processing, where required **to do so** under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive 2002/58/EC, or to comply with Union data protection and privacy rules and principles in other ways including by providing business users with duly anonymised data where appropriate. ~~The gatekeeper shall not make the obtaining of this consent by the business user more burdensome than for its own services.~~
3. A gatekeeper shall not degrade the conditions or quality of any of the core platform services provided to business users or end users who avail themselves of the rights or choices laid down in Articles 5 and 6, or make the exercise of those rights or choices unduly difficult **including by offering choices to the end-user in a non-neutral manner, or by subverting user's autonomy, decision-making, or choice via the structure, design, function or manner of operation of a user interface or a part thereof.**

Article 7
Compliance with obligations for gatekeepers

1. ~~The measures implemented by the gatekeeper shall be effective in ensuring its compliance with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6, and shall demonstrate that compliance, when called upon to do so shall be effective in achieving the objective of the relevant obligation.~~ The gatekeeper shall ensure that ~~these~~ *the* measures are implemented in compliance *that it implements comply* with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, and Directive 2002/58/EC, and with legislation on cyber security, consumer protection and product safety *as well as with accessibility requirements for the persons with disabilities in accordance with the Directive 2019/882.*

1 a. Within six months after its designation and in application of paragraph 8 of Article 3, the gatekeeper shall provide the Commission with a report describing in a detailed and transparent manner the measures implemented to ensure compliance with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6. This report shall be updated at least annually.

1 b. Along with the report mentioned in paragraph 1a and within the same timeframe, the gatekeeper shall provide the Commission with a non-confidential summary of its report that will be published by the Commission without delay. The non-confidential summary shall be updated at least annually according to the detailed report.

In order to comply with the obligations laid down in Article 6 and where the gatekeeper holds reasonable doubt as to the appropriate method or methods of compliance, the gatekeeper may request that the Commission engage in a process to receive and address requests for clarification and thereafter further specify relevant measures that the gatekeeper shall adopt in order to comply in an effective and proportionate manner with those obligations. Further specification of obligations laid down in Article 6 shall be limited to issues relating to ensuring effective and proportionate compliance with the obligations. When doing so, the Commission may decide to consult third parties whose views it considers necessary in relation to the measures that the gatekeeper is expected to implement. The duration of the process shall not extend beyond the period set out in Article 3(8), with the possibility for an extension of two months, at the discretion of the Commission, should the dialogue process have not been concluded prior to the expiry of the said period.

The Commission shall retain discretion in deciding whether to engage in such a process, with due regard to principles of equal treatment, proportionality and due process. Where the Commission decides not to engage in such a process, it shall provide a written justification to the relevant gatekeeper. At the end of this process, the Commission may also by decision specify the measures that the gatekeeper concerned is to implement arising from the conclusion of this process set out in paragraph 1b.

2. Where the Commission finds that the measures that the gatekeeper intends to implement pursuant to paragraph 1, or has implemented, do not ensure effective compliance with the relevant obligations laid down in Article 6, it may by decision specify the measures that the gatekeeper concerned *is to* implement. The Commission

- shall adopt *such* a decision *as soon as possible and in any event no later than four months after* the opening of proceedings pursuant to Article 18.
3. Paragraph 2 of this Article is without prejudice to the powers of the Commission under Articles 25, 26 and 27.
 4. *With a view to* adopting the decision under paragraph 2, the Commission shall communicate its preliminary findings *and publish a concise summary as soon as possible and, in any event no later than three two* months from the opening of the proceedings. In the preliminary findings, the Commission shall explain the ~~measure/s~~ *measures that it is considering taking or that* it considers that the provider of core platform services concerned should take in order to effectively address the preliminary findings. *The Commission may decide to invite interested third parties to submit their observations within a time limit, which is fixed by the Commission in its publication. When publishing, due regard shall be given by the Commission to the legitimate interest of undertakings in the protection of their business secrets.*
 5. In specifying the measures under paragraph 2, the Commission shall ensure that the measures are effective in achieving the objectives of the relevant obligation and proportionate in the specific circumstances of the gatekeeper and the relevant service.
 6. For the purposes of specifying the obligations under Article 6(1) points (j) and (k), the Commission shall also assess whether the intended or implemented measures ensure that there is no remaining imbalance of rights and obligations on business users and that the measures do not themselves confer an advantage on the gatekeeper which is disproportionate to the service provided by the gatekeeper to business users.
 7. A gatekeeper may request *within the implementation deadline of Article 3 (8)* the opening of proceedings pursuant to Article 18 for the Commission to determine whether the measures that the gatekeeper intends to implement or has implemented under Article 6 are effective in achieving the objective of the relevant obligation in the specific circumstances. *In its request, the A gatekeeper may shall-with-its request,* provide a reasoned submission to explain in particular why the measures that it intends to implement or has implemented are effective in achieving the objective of the relevant obligation in the specific circumstances. *The Commission shall adopt its decision within six months from the opening of proceedings pursuant to Article 18.*

Article 8 *Suspension*

1. The Commission may, on a reasoned request by the gatekeeper, suspend, *on an exceptional basis*, in whole or in part, a specific obligation laid down in Articles 5 and 6 for a core platform service by decision adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4), where the gatekeeper demonstrates that compliance with that specific obligation would endanger, due to exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the gatekeeper, the economic viability of the operation of the gatekeeper in the Union, and only to the extent necessary to address such threat to its viability. The Commission shall aim to adopt the suspension decision without delay and at the latest *within three* months *after* receipt of a complete reasoned request. *The suspension decision shall be accompanied by a reasoned statement explaining the grounds for the suspension.*
2. Where suspension is granted pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission shall review its suspension decision every year. Following such a review the Commission shall

either ***wholly or partly*** lift the suspension or decide that the conditions of paragraph 1 continue to be met.

3. ***In cases of urgency***, ~~t~~The Commission may, acting on a reasoned request by a gatekeeper, provisionally suspend the application of the relevant obligation to one or more individual core platform services already prior to the decision pursuant to paragraph 1.

In assessing the request, the Commission shall take into account, in particular, the impact of the compliance with the specific obligation on the economic viability of the operation of the gatekeeper in the Union as well as on third parties, ***in particular smaller business users and consumers***. The suspension may be made subject to conditions and obligations to be defined by the Commission in order to ensure a fair balance between these interests and the objectives of this Regulation. Such a request may be made and granted at any time pending the assessment of the Commission pursuant to paragraph 1.

Article 9

Exemption **on grounds of public morality, public health or public security** ~~for overriding reasons of public interest~~

1. The Commission may, acting on a reasoned request by a gatekeeper or on its own initiative, by decision adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4), exempt it, in whole or in part, from a specific obligation laid down in Articles 5 and 6 in relation to an individual core platform service identified pursuant to Article 3(7), where such exemption is justified on the grounds set out in paragraph 2 of this Article. The Commission shall adopt the exemption decision at the latest ~~3~~ ***three*** months after receiving a complete reasoned request. ***Such decision shall be accompanied by a reasoned statement explaining the grounds for the exemption.***
- 1a. ***Where the exemption is granted pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission shall review its exemption decision every year. Following such a review the Commission shall either wholly or partially lift the exemption or decide that the conditions of paragraph 1 continue to be met.***
2. An exemption pursuant to paragraph 1 may only be granted on grounds of:
 - (a) public morality;
 - (b) public health; or
 - (c) public security.
3. ***In cases of urgency***, ~~t~~The Commission may, acting on a reasoned request by a gatekeeper or on its own initiative, provisionally suspend the application of the relevant obligation to one or more individual core platform services already prior to the decision pursuant to paragraph 1.

In assessing the request, the Commission shall take into account, in particular, the impact of the compliance with the specific obligation on the grounds in paragraph 2 as well as the effects on the gatekeeper concerned and on third parties. The suspension may be made subject to conditions and obligations to be defined by the

Commission in order to ensure a fair balance between the goals pursued by the grounds in paragraph 2 and the objectives of this Regulation. Such a request may be made and granted at any time pending the assessment of the Commission pursuant to paragraph 1.

Article 11
Anti-circumvention

- ~~1. A gatekeeper shall ensure that the obligations of Articles 5 and 6 are fully and effectively complied with. While the obligations of Articles 5 and 6 apply in respect of core platform services designated pursuant to Article 3, their implementation shall not be undermined by any behaviour of the undertaking to which the gatekeeper belongs, regardless of whether this behaviour is of a contractual, commercial, technical or any other nature.~~
- ~~2. Where consent for collecting and processing of personal data is required to ensure compliance with this Regulation, a gatekeeper shall take the necessary steps to either enable business users to directly obtain the required consent to their processing, where required under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive 2002/58/EC, or to comply with Union data protection and privacy rules and principles in other ways including by providing business users with duly anonymised data where appropriate. The gatekeeper shall not make the obtaining of this consent by the business user more burdensome than for its own services.~~
- ~~3. A gatekeeper shall not degrade the conditions or quality of any of the core platform services provided to business users or end-users who avail themselves of the rights or choices laid down in Articles 5 and 6, or make the exercise of those rights or choices unduly difficult.~~

Article 36a
Guidelines

To facilitate the compliance of gatekeepers with and the enforcement of the obligations in Articles 5, 6, 12 and 13, the Commission shall may accompany the obligations set out in those Articles with guidelines, where the Commission deems that this is appropriate. Where appropriate and necessary, the Commission may mandate the standardisation bodies to facilitate the implementation of the obligations by developing appropriate standards .

CORRESPONDING RECITALS

- (32) To safeguard the fairness and contestability of core platform services provided by gatekeepers, it is necessary to provide in a clear and unambiguous manner for a set of harmonised obligations with regard to those services. Such rules are needed to address the risk of harmful effects of unfair practices imposed by gatekeepers, to the benefit of the business environment in the services concerned, to the benefit of users and ultimately to the benefit of society as a whole. Given the fast-moving and dynamic nature of digital markets, and the substantial economic power of gatekeepers, it is important that these obligations are effectively applied without being circumvented. To that end, the obligations in question should apply to any ~~practices~~ *behaviour* by a gatekeeper, irrespective of its form and irrespective of whether it is of a contractual,

commercial, technical or any other nature, insofar as a practice *it could, in practice, have an equivalent object or effect to the* ~~corresponds to the type of~~ practices that *are prohibited is the subject of one of the obligations of* under this Regulation. *Such behaviour includes the design used by the gatekeeper, the presentation of end-user choices in a non-neutral manner, or using the structure, function or manner of operation of a user interface or a part thereof to subvert or impair user autonomy, decision-making, or choice.*

57 a) *The implementation of gatekeepers' obligations related to access, installation, portability or interoperability could be facilitated by the use of technical standards. In this respect the Commission should identify appropriate, widely-used ICT technical standards from standards organisations as foreseen under Article 13 of Regulation 1025/12 or where appropriate ask/ request European standardisation bodies to develop them.*

(58) *This aim of this Regulation is to ensure that the digital economy remains fair and contestable in order to promote innovation, high quality of digital products and services, fair and competitive prices and a high quality and choice for end users in the digital sector.* To ensure the effectiveness of the obligations laid down by this Regulation, while also making certain that these obligations are limited to what is necessary to ensure contestability and tackling the harmful effects of the unfair behaviour by gatekeepers, it is important to clearly define and circumscribe them so as to allow the gatekeeper to immediately comply with them, in full respect of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive 2002/58/EC, consumer protection, cyber security and product safety *as well as with accessibility requirements for the persons with disabilities in accordance with the Directive 2019/882.* The gatekeepers should ensure the compliance with this Regulation by design. The necessary measures should therefore be as much as possible and where relevant integrated into the technological design used by the gatekeepers. However, it may in certain cases be appropriate for the Commission, following a dialogue with the gatekeeper concerned, *and, where appropriate, a consultation of interested third parties,* to further specify *in a decision* some of the measures that the gatekeeper concerned should adopt in order to effectively comply with those obligations that are susceptible of being further specified. This possibility of a regulatory dialogue should facilitate compliance by gatekeepers and expedite the correct implementation of the Regulation.

(59) As an additional element to ensure proportionality, gatekeepers should be given an opportunity to request the suspension, to the extent necessary, of a specific obligation in exceptional circumstances that lie beyond the control of the gatekeeper, such as for example an unforeseen external shock that has temporarily eliminated a significant part of end user demand for the relevant core platform service, where compliance with a specific obligation is shown by the gatekeeper to endanger the economic viability of the Union operations of the gatekeeper concerned. *The Commission should state in its decision the reasons for granting the suspension and review it on a regular basis to assess whether the conditions for granting it are still viable or not.*

(60) In exceptional circumstances justified on the limited grounds of public morality, public health or public security, the Commission should be able to decide that the obligation concerned does not apply to a specific core platform service. Affecting these public interests can indicate that the cost to society as a whole of enforcing a certain obligation would in a certain exceptional case be too high and thus disproportionate. The regulatory dialogue to facilitate compliance with limited *and duly justified* suspension

and exemption possibilities should ensure the proportionality of the obligations in this Regulation without undermining the intended ex ante effects on fairness and contestability. ***Where such an exemption is granted, the Commission should review its decision every year.***

Compromise Amendment G
on enforcement powers replacing all relevant amendments, including AMs 88-97, 101-105, 107-109, 348-375, 1045-1132, 1181-1199, ECON: 54-58, 61, 159-189, 197-201, ITRE: 45-50, 54, 181-205, 215-223, CULT: 97-99, 104, JURI: 47, 50, 149-169, 173-182, LIBE: 22, 61-65, 70-71, TRAN: 21-22, 24, 26, 65-75, 78-83

Chapter V

Investigative, enforcement and monitoring powers

Article 18

Opening of proceedings

Where the Commission intends to carry out proceedings in view of the possible adoption of decisions pursuant to Article 7, 25 and 26, it shall adopt a decision opening a proceeding.

Article 19

Requests for information

1. The Commission may by simple request or by decision require information from undertakings and associations of undertakings to provide all necessary information, including for the purpose of monitoring, implementing and enforcing the rules laid down in this Regulation. The Commission may also request access to data bases, ~~and~~ algorithms of undertakings **and information about testings** and request explanations on those by a simple request or by a decision.
2. The Commission may request information from undertakings and associations of undertakings pursuant to paragraph 1 also prior to opening a market investigation pursuant to Article 14 ~~or proceedings pursuant to Article 18~~.
3. When sending a simple request for information to an undertaking or association of undertakings, the Commission shall state the purpose of the request, specify what information is required and fix the time-limit within which the information is to be provided, and the penalties provided for in Article 26 for supplying incomplete, incorrect or misleading information or explanations.
4. Where the Commission requires undertakings and associations of undertakings to supply information by decision, it shall state the purpose of the request, specify what information is required and fix the time-limit within which it is to be provided. Where the Commission requires undertakings to provide access to its data-bases and algorithms, it shall state the ~~legal basis and the~~ purpose of the request, **specify what information is required** and fix the time-limit within which it is to be provided. It shall also indicate the penalties provided for in Article 26 and indicate or impose the periodic penalty payments provided for in Article 27. It shall further indicate the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice.
5. The undertakings or associations of undertakings or their representatives shall supply the information requested on behalf of the undertaking or the association of undertakings concerned. Lawyers duly authorised to act may supply the information

on behalf of their clients. The latter shall remain fully responsible if the information supplied is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.

6. At the request of the Commission, the governments and authorities of the Member States shall provide the Commission with all necessary information to carry out the duties assigned to it by this Regulation.

Article 20

Power to carry out interviews and take statements

The Commission, **and the national competent authorities in accordance with Article 31c**, **may** interview any natural or legal person which consents to being interviewed for the purpose of collecting information, relating to the subject-matter of an investigation, including in relation to the monitoring, implementing and enforcing of the rules laid down in this Regulation.

Article 21

Powers to conduct on-site inspections

1. The Commission may conduct on-site inspections at the premises of an undertaking or association of undertakings.
2. On-site inspections may also be carried out with the assistance of **rotating** auditors or experts appointed by the Commission pursuant to Article 24(2).
3. During on-site inspections the Commission and auditors or experts appointed by it may require the undertaking or association of undertakings to provide access to and explanations on its organisation, functioning, IT system, algorithms, data-handling and business conducts. The Commission and auditors or experts appointed by it may address questions to key personnel.
4. Undertakings or associations of undertakings are required to submit to an on-site inspection ordered by decision of the Commission. The decision shall specify the subject matter and purpose of the visit, set the date on which it is to begin and indicate the penalties provided for in Articles 26 and 27 and the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice.

Article 22

Interim measures

1. In cases of urgency due to the risk of serious and **irreparable immediate** damage for business users or end users of gatekeepers, the Commission may, by decision adopt in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4), order interim measures ~~against a~~ **on** a gatekeeper on the basis of a prima facie finding of an infringement of Articles 5 or 6.
2. A decision pursuant to paragraph 1 ~~may~~ **shall** only be adopted in the context of proceedings opened ~~in with a~~ view ~~of to~~ the possible adoption of a decision of non-compliance pursuant to Article 25(1). ~~This~~ **That** decision shall apply for a specified period of time and may be renewed in so far this is necessary and appropriate.
- 2 a. ***In cases of urgency due to the risk of serious and immediate damage to business users or end users of gatekeepers, resulting from new practices implemented by one or more gatekeepers that could undermine contestability of core platform services or that could be unfair pursuant to Article 10(2), the Commission may impose***

interim measures on the gatekeepers concerned in order to prevent such a risk materialising.

- 2 b. *A decision referred to in paragraph 2a shall only be adopted in the context of a market investigation pursuant to Article 17 and within 6 months of the opening of such an investigation. The interim measures shall apply for a specified period of time and, in any case, shall be renewed or withdrawn in order to take account of the final decision resulting from the market investigation pursuant to Article 17.*

Article 23 *Commitments*

- ~~1. If during proceedings under Articles 16 or 25 the gatekeeper concerned offers commitments for the relevant core platform services to ensure compliance with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6, the Commission may by decision adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4) make those commitments binding on that gatekeeper and declare that there are no further grounds for action.~~
- ~~2. The Commission may, upon request or on its own initiative, reopen by decision the relevant proceedings, where:
 - ~~(a) there has been a material change in any of the facts on which the decision was based;~~
 - ~~(b) the gatekeeper concerned acts contrary to its commitments;~~
 - ~~(c) the decision was based on incomplete, incorrect or misleading information provided by the parties.~~~~
- ~~3. Should the Commission consider that the commitments submitted by the gatekeeper concerned cannot ensure effective compliance with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6, it shall explain the reasons for not making those commitments binding in the decision concluding the relevant proceedings.~~

Article 24 *Monitoring of obligations and measures*

1. The Commission ~~may~~ **shall** take the necessary actions to monitor the effective implementation and compliance with the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6 and the decisions taken pursuant to Articles 7, 16, 22 and 23.
2. The actions pursuant to paragraph 1 may include the appointment of independent external experts and auditors to assist the Commission to monitor the obligations and measures and to provide specific expertise or knowledge to the Commission.

Article 24a *Complaint mechanism*

1. *Business users, competitors, end-users of the core platform services as well as their representatives or other person with a legitimate interest may complain to the competent national authorities about any practice or behaviour by gatekeepers that falls into the scope of this Regulation, including non-compliance.*

The competent national authorities shall assess such complaints and shall report them to the Commission.

The Commission shall examine whether there are reasonable grounds to open proceedings pursuant to Article 18 or a market investigation pursuant to Article 14.

2. *Directive (EU) 2019/1937 shall apply to the complains and the reporting of breaches of this Regulation and the protection of persons reporting such breaches.*

Article 24b Compliance function

1. *Gatekeepers shall establish a compliance function, which is independent from the operational functions of the gatekeeper and appoint one or more compliance officers, including the head of the compliance function.*
2. *The gatekeeper shall ensure that compliance function pursuant to paragraph 1 has sufficient authority, stature and resources, as well as access to the management body of the gatekeeper to monitor the compliance of the gatekeeper with this Regulation.*
3. *Gatekeeper shall ensure that compliance officers appointed pursuant to paragraph 1 have the professional qualifications, knowledge, experience and ability necessary to fulfil the tasks referred to in paragraph 4.*

Gatekeeper shall also ensure that the head of the compliance function appointed pursuant to paragraph 1 is a senior manager with distinct responsibility for the compliance function and shall be independent from the operational functions and management body of the gatekeeper.

4. *The head of the compliance function shall report directly to the management body of the gatekeeper and shall have the powers to raise concerns and warn that body where risks of non-compliance with this Regulation arise, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the management body in its supervisory and managerial functions.*

The head of the compliance function shall not be removed without prior approval of the management body of the gatekeeper.

5. *Compliance officers appointed by the gatekeeper pursuant to paragraph 1 shall oversee compliance of the gatekeeper with the obligations in this regulation, including at least the following tasks:*
 - (a) *organising, monitoring and supervising the measures and activities of the gatekeepers that aim to ensure compliance with the obligations laid down in this Regulation;*
 - (b) *informing and advising the management and employees of the gatekeeper about relevant obligations under this Regulation;*
 - (c) *where applicable, monitoring compliance with commitments made binding pursuant to Article 23, without prejudice to the Commission being able to appoint independent external experts pursuant to Article 24(2).*

- (d) *cooperating with the Commission for the purpose of this Regulation.*
6. *Gatekeepers shall communicate the name and contact details of the head of the compliance function to the Commission.*
7. *The management body of the gatekeeper shall define, oversee and be accountable for the implementation of the governance arrangements of the gatekeeper that ensure independence of the compliance function, including the segregation of duties in the organisation of the gatekeeper and the prevention of conflicts of interest.*

Article 25
Non-compliance

1. The Commission shall adopt a non-compliance decision in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4) where it finds that a gatekeeper does not comply with one or more of the following:
- (a) any of the obligations laid down in Articles 5 or 6;
 - (b) measures specified in a decision adopted pursuant to Article 7(2);
 - (c) measures ordered pursuant to Article 16(1);
 - (d) interim measures ordered pursuant to Article 22; or
 - ~~(e) commitments made legally binding pursuant to Article 23.~~
- 1a. The Commission shall adopt its decision within 12 months from the opening of proceedings pursuant to Article 18.*
2. Before adopting the decision pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission shall communicate its preliminary findings to the gatekeeper concerned. In those preliminary findings, the Commission shall explain the measures it is considering taking or that it considers that the gatekeeper should take in order to effectively address the preliminary findings.
3. In the non-compliance decision adopted pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission shall order the gatekeeper to cease and desist with the non-compliance within an appropriate deadline and to provide explanations on how it plans to comply with the decision.
4. The gatekeeper shall provide the Commission with the description of the measures that it has taken to ensure compliance with the decision adopted pursuant to paragraph 1.
5. Where the Commission finds that the conditions of paragraph 1 are not met, it shall close the investigation by a decision.

Article 26
Fines

1. In the decision pursuant to Article 25, the Commission may impose on a gatekeeper fines *not less than 4% and* not exceeding ~~10~~ **20%** of its total *worldwide* turnover in the preceding financial year where it finds that the gatekeeper, intentionally or negligently, fails to comply with:

- (a) any of the obligations pursuant to Articles 5 and 6;
 - (ab) *the obligation to notify information that is required pursuant to Article 12;***
 - (ab) *the obligation to notify information that is required pursuant to Article 13 or supply incorrect, incomplete or misleading information;***
 - (b) the measures specified by the Commission pursuant to a decision under Article 7(2);
 - (c) measures ordered pursuant to Article 16(1);
 - (d) a decision ordering interim measures pursuant to Article 22;
 - ~~(e) a commitment made binding by a decision pursuant to Article 23.~~
2. The Commission may by decision impose on undertakings and associations of undertakings fines not exceeding 1% of the total turnover in the preceding financial year where they intentionally or negligently:
- (a) fail to provide within the time-limit information that is required for assessing their designation as gatekeepers pursuant to Article 3(2) or supply incorrect, incomplete or misleading information;
 - ~~**(b) fail to notify information that is required pursuant to Article 12 or supply incorrect, incomplete or misleading information;**~~
 - ~~**(c) fail to submit the description that is required pursuant to Article 13;**~~
 - (d) supply incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or explanations that are requested pursuant to Articles 19 or Article 20;
 - (e) fail to provide access to data-bases and algorithms pursuant to Article 19;
 - (f) fail to rectify within a time-limit set by the Commission, incorrect, incomplete or misleading information given by a member of staff, or fail or refuse to provide complete information on facts relating to the subject-matter and purpose of an inspection pursuant to Article 21;
 - (g) refuse to submit to an on-site inspection pursuant to Article 21.
3. In fixing the amount of the fine, regard shall be had to the gravity, duration, recurrence, and, for fines imposed pursuant to paragraph 2, delay caused to the proceedings.
4. When a fine is imposed on an association of undertakings taking account of the turnover of its members and the association is not solvent, the association shall be obliged to call for contributions from its members to cover the amount of the fine.

Where such contributions have not been made to the association within a time-limit set by the Commission, the Commission may require payment of the fine directly by any of the undertakings whose representatives were members of the decision-making bodies concerned of the association.

After having required payment in accordance with the second subparagraph, the Commission may require payment of the balance by any of the members of the association which were active on the market on which the infringement occurred, where necessary to ensure full payment of the fine.

However, the Commission shall not require payment pursuant to the second or the third subparagraph from undertakings which show that they have not implemented the infringing decision of the association and either were not aware of its existence or have actively distanced themselves from it before the Commission started investigating the case.

The financial liability of each undertaking in respect of the payment of the fine shall not exceed 10 % of its total turnover in the preceding financial year.

Article 27

Periodic penalty payments

1. The Commission may by decision impose on undertakings, including gatekeepers where applicable, periodic penalty payments not exceeding 5 % of the average daily turnover in the preceding financial year per day, calculated from the date set by that decision, in order to compel them:
 - (a) to comply with the decision pursuant to Article 16(1);
 - (b) to supply correct and complete information within the time limit required by a request for information made by decision pursuant to Article 19;
 - (c) to ensure access to data-bases and algorithms of undertakings and to supply explanations on those as required by a decision pursuant to Article 19;
 - (d) to submit to an on-site inspection which was ordered by a decision taken pursuant to Article 21;
 - (e) to comply with a decision ordering interim measures taken pursuant to Article 22(1);
 - (f) to comply with commitments made legally binding by a decision pursuant to Article 23(1);
 - (g) to comply with a decision pursuant to Article 25(1).
2. Where the undertakings have satisfied the obligation which the periodic penalty payment was intended to enforce, the Commission may by decision adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4) set the definitive amount of the periodic penalty payment **at a figure lower than that which would arise under the original decision.**

Article 28

Limitation periods for the imposition of penalties

1. The powers conferred on the Commission by Articles 26 and 27 shall be subject to a ~~three~~ **five** year limitation period.
2. Time shall begin to run on the day on which the infringement is committed. However, in the case of continuing or repeated infringements, time shall begin to run on the day on which the infringement ceases.
3. Any action taken by the Commission for the purpose of an investigation or proceedings in respect of an infringement shall interrupt the limitation period for the imposition of fines or periodic penalty payments. The limitation period shall be interrupted with effect from the date on which the action is notified to at least one

undertaking or association of undertakings which has participated in the infringement. Actions which interrupt the running of the period shall include in particular the following:

- (a) requests for information by the Commission;
 - (b) on-site inspection;
 - (c) the opening of a proceeding by the Commission pursuant to Article 18.
4. Each interruption shall start time running afresh. However, the limitation period shall expire at the latest on the day on which a period equal to twice the limitation period has elapsed without the Commission having imposed a fine or a periodic penalty payment. That period shall be extended by the time during which limitation is suspended pursuant to paragraph 5.
 5. The limitation period for the imposition of fines or periodic penalty payments shall be suspended for as long as the decision of the Commission is the subject of proceedings pending before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Article 29

Limitation periods for the enforcement of penalties

1. The power of the Commission to enforce decisions taken pursuant to Articles 26 and 27 shall be subject to a limitation period of five years.
2. Time shall begin to run on the day on which the decision becomes final.
3. The limitation period for the enforcement of penalties shall be interrupted:
 - (a) by notification of a decision varying the original amount of the fine or periodic penalty payment or refusing an application for variation;
 - (b) by any action of the Commission or of a Member State, acting at the request of the Commission, designed to enforce payment of the fine or periodic penalty payment.
4. Each interruption shall start time running afresh.
5. The limitation period for the enforcement of penalties shall be suspended for so long as:
 - (a) time to pay is allowed;
 - (b) enforcement of payment is suspended pursuant to a decision of the Court of Justice.

Article 30

Right to be heard and access to the file

1. Before adopting a decision pursuant to Article 7, Article 8(1), Article 9(1), Articles 15, 16, 22, 23, 25 and 26 and Article 27(2), the Commission shall give the gatekeeper or undertaking or association of undertakings concerned ***including third parties with a legitimate interest***, the opportunity of being heard on:
 - (a) preliminary findings of the Commission, including any matter to which the Commission has taken objections;

- (b) measures that the Commission may intend to take in view of the preliminary findings pursuant to point (a) of this paragraph.
2. Gatekeepers, undertakings and associations of undertakings concerned ***including third parties with a legitimate interest*** may submit their observations to the Commission's preliminary findings within a time limit which shall be fixed by the Commission in its preliminary findings and which may not be less than 14 days.
 3. The Commission shall base its decisions only on objections on which gatekeepers, undertakings ~~and~~, associations of undertakings concerned ***and third parties with a legitimate interest*** have been able to comment.
 4. The rights of defence of the gatekeeper or undertaking or association of undertakings concerned shall be fully respected in any proceedings. The gatekeeper or undertaking or association of undertakings concerned shall be entitled to have access to the Commission's file under the terms of a negotiated disclosure, subject to the legitimate interest of undertakings in the protection of their business secrets. The right of access to the file shall not extend to confidential information and internal documents of the Commission or the authorities of the Member States. In particular, the right of access shall not extend to correspondence between the Commission and the authorities of the Member States. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Commission from disclosing and using information necessary to prove an infringement.

Chapter VI

General provisions

Article 34

Publication of decisions

1. The Commission shall publish the decisions which it takes pursuant to Articles 3, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23(1), 25, 26 and 27. Such publication shall state the names of the parties and the main content of the decision, including any penalties imposed.
2. The publication shall have regard to the legitimate interest of gatekeepers or third parties in the protection of their confidential information.

Article 35

Review by the Court of Justice of the European Union

In accordance with Article 261 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Court of Justice of the European Union has unlimited jurisdiction to review decisions by which the Commission has imposed fines or periodic penalty payments. It may cancel, reduce or increase the fine or periodic penalty payment imposed.

Article 36

Implementing Provisions Detailed arrangements

1. The Commission may adopt implementing acts laying down detailed arrangements for the application of ***the following***:

- (a) the form, content and other details of notifications and submissions pursuant to Article 3;
 - (aa) the form, content and other details on how choice is to be provided and consent is to be given, pursuant to Article 5(a);*
 - (ab) the form, content and other details on how information on price and remuneration are to be given, pursuant to Article 5(g);*
 - (b) the form, content and other details of the technical measures that gatekeepers shall implement in order to ensure compliance with points (h), (i) and (j) of Article 6(1).
 - (c) the form, content and other details of notifications and submissions made pursuant to Articles 12 and 13;
 - (d) the practical arrangements of extension of deadlines as provided in Article 16;
 - (e) the practical arrangements of the proceedings concerning investigations pursuant to Articles 15, 16, 17, and proceedings pursuant to Articles 22, 23 and 25;
 - (f) the practical arrangements for exercising rights to be heard provided for in Article 30;
 - (g) the practical arrangements for the negotiated disclosure of information provided for in Article 30;
- ~~2.~~ *(ga)* the practical arrangements for the cooperation and coordination between the Commission and Member States provided for in Article *31d*.
2. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 32(4). Before the adoption of any measures pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission shall publish a draft thereof and invite all interested parties to submit their comments within the time limit it lays down, which may not be less than one month.

Article 37

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.
2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Articles 3(6) and ~~9(1)~~ **10** shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from DD/MM/YYYY. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the five-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.
3. The delegation of power referred to in Articles 3(6) and ~~9(1)~~ **10** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.
5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.
6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Articles 3(6) and 9(1) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and to the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Article 37 a new

Amendment of Directive (EU) 2019/1937

In Part XX of the Annex to Directive (EU) 2019/1937, the following point is added:

"Regulation (EU) /... of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... on XX (EU) 2021/XXX, and amending Directive (EU) 2019/37 (OJ L ...).

Article 37 b new

Amendments to Directive 2020/1828/EC on Representative Actions for the Protection of the Collective Interests of Consumers

The following is added to Annex I:

“(X) Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector (Digital Markets Act)”

Article 38

Review

1. By DD/MM/YYYY, and subsequently every three years, the Commission shall evaluate this Regulation and report to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee.
2. The evaluations shall establish whether additional rules, including regarding the list of core platform services laid down in point 2 of Article 2, the obligations laid down in Articles 5 and 6 and their enforcement, may be required to ensure that digital markets across the Union are contestable and fair. Following the evaluations, the Commission shall take appropriate measures, which may include legislative proposals.
3. Member States shall provide any relevant information they have that the Commission may require for the purposes of drawing up the report referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 39
Entry into force and application

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
2. This Regulation shall apply from ~~six~~ **[two]** months after its entry into force.
However Articles 3, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 30, 31 and 34 shall apply from [date of entry into force of this Regulation].
3. This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

CORRESPONDING RECITALS

- (68) In order to ensure effective implementation and compliance with this Regulation, the Commission should have strong investigative and enforcement powers, to allow it to investigate, enforce and monitor the rules laid down in this Regulation, while at the same time ensuring the respect for the fundamental right to be heard and to have access to the file in the context of the enforcement proceedings. The Commission should dispose of these investigative powers also for the purpose of carrying out market investigations for the purpose of updating and reviewing this Regulation.
- (69) The Commission should be empowered to request information necessary for the purpose of this Regulation, throughout the Union. In particular, the Commission should have access to any relevant documents, data, database, algorithm and information necessary to open and conduct investigations and to monitor the compliance with the obligations laid down in this Regulation, irrespective of who possesses the documents, data or information in question, and regardless of their form or format, their storage medium, or the place where they are stored.
- (70) The Commission should be able to directly request that undertakings or association of undertakings provide any relevant evidence, data and information. ***The time limits fixed by the Commission for the request of information should respect the size and capabilities of an undertaking or association of undertakings.*** In addition, the Commission should be able to request any relevant information from any public authority, body or agency within the Member State, or from any natural person or legal person for the purpose of this Regulation. When complying with a decision of the Commission, undertakings are obliged to answer factual questions and to provide documents.
- (71) The Commission should also be empowered to undertake onsite inspections and to interview any persons who may be in possession of useful information and to record the statements made.
- (72) The Commission should be able to take the necessary actions to monitor the effective implementation and compliance with the obligations laid down in this Regulation. Such actions should include the ability of the Commission to appoint independent external experts, such as and auditors to assist the Commission in this process, including where applicable from competent independent authorities, such as data or consumer protection authorities.

- (73) Compliance with the obligations imposed under this Regulation should be enforceable by means of fines and periodic penalty payments. To that end, appropriate levels of fines and periodic penalty payments should also be laid down for non-compliance with the obligations and breach of the procedural rules subject to appropriate limitation periods. The Court of Justice should have unlimited jurisdiction in respect of fines and penalty payments.
- (74) In order to ensure effective recovery of fines imposed on associations of undertakings for infringements that they have committed, it is necessary to lay down the conditions on which the Commission may require payment of the fine from the members of the association where the association is not solvent.
- (75)a In order to facilitate cooperation and coordination between the Commission and Member States in their enforcement actions, a group of regulators with responsibilities in the digital sector should be established with the power to advise the Commission on a number of decisions; it should enable the exchange of information and best practices among the Member States, better monitoring and thus strengthen the implementation of this Regulation.*
- (76) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of Articles 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 30, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be *exercised* in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹.
- (77a) National courts will have an important role in applying this Regulation and should be allowed to ask the Commission to transmit to them information or opinions on questions concernign the application of this Regulation. At the same time, the Commission should be able to submit oral or written observations to courts of the Member States.*
- (77b) Whistleblowers can bring new information to the attention of competent authorities which helps them in detecting infringements of this Regulation and imposing penalties. This Regulation should therefore ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to enable whistleblowers to alert competent authorities to actual or potential infringements of this Regulation and to protect them from retaliation.*
- (77c) End users should be entitled to enforce their rights in relation to the obligations imposed on gatekeepers under this Regulation through representative actions in accordance with Directive (EU) 2020/1818.*
- (78) The Commission should periodically evaluate this Regulation and closely monitor its effects on the contestability and fairness of commercial relationships in the online platform economy, in particular with a view to determining the need for amendments in light of relevant technological or commercial developments. This evaluation should include the regular review of the list of core platform services ~~and the obligations addressed to gatekeepers~~ as well as enforcement of these, in view of ensuring that digital markets across the Union are contestable and fair. In order to obtain a broad view of developments in the sector, the evaluation should take into account the experiences of Member States and relevant stakeholders. The Commission may in this regard also consider the opinions and reports presented to it by the Observatory on the Online

¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers, (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

Platform Economy that was first established by Commission Decision C(2018)2393 of 26 April 2018. Following the evaluation, the Commission should take appropriate measures. The Commission should ~~to~~ maintain a high level of protection and respect for the common EU rights and values, particularly equality and non-discrimination, as an objective when conducting the assessments and reviews of the practices and obligations provided in this Regulation.