

Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission

Thursday, 18 January 2018

Dear President Juncker,

The Developers Alliance, the world's leading advocate for software developers, including industry leaders in consumer, enterprise, industrial, and emerging software, and a global network of more than 70,000 developers, together with the undersigned organisations and companies, representing a wide range of European digital businesses, are writing today to express ongoing concern with the Commission's investigation of Android's business practices.

As you know, some of us already wrote to DG Competition last year with these concerns, and we hope there will be further opportunities to engage with your staff, as a negative decision in this case could adversely impact European businesses and the EU's global leadership in this sector.

Our first concern is fragmentation of the mobile ecosystem. You have already heard complaints that Google's anti-fragmentation agreement (AFA) restricts hardware makers from diversifying their Android-based devices. Changes to Google's AFA could undermine the consistency of various Android devices, which would be lethal to our businesses. Currently we are able to offer consumers a seamless, stable experience across Android devices that keeps their data secure and facilitates easy switching among various competing Android devices. It does not make business sense to develop different versions of our applications for each of the thousands of Android devices. We see significant differentiation and intra-platform competition (among Android Original Equipment Manufacturers), and want to ensure there remains a stable, scalable Android platform. This is vital to achieving a positive user experience and the continued success of the app economy.

We have no concerns about the way Google distributes its own applications on some Android devices. Google allows rivals to be preinstalled alongside its own apps. As a result, most device manufacturers preload apps coming from a large variety of app developers including several European ones. Further, it is very easy for all developers to reach consumers via the Android platform. Apps can be downloaded in seconds from any source, and we have seen that many of the most successful applications grew in popularity because they were useful and consumers liked them - not because they were preinstalled on various devices. The openness of Android's platform benefits developers. We hope the EC investigation will not undermine this ability for app developers to reach 2 billion users and not turn the mobile ecosystem into a multiple fragmented ecosystem.

The proof that Android works for European developers is clear. A recent report from AppAnnie predicts more than 165 billion app downloads from the several Android app stores in 2017, and 308 billion app downloads in 2021. This will continue to drive the success of, amongst others, European companies. As these opportunities continue to expand, so will our businesses, and thus it is imperative that the Commission does not undercut our future growth.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and we look forward to speaking with your office soon.

Sincerely,



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