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Summary of Commission Decision

of 16 July 2026

relating to a decision pursuant to Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925

(Case DMA.100220 – Alphabet – OS – Google Android – Art. 6(7) – SP - AI)

(notified under document number C(2026) 5094 final)

(Only the English text is authentic)

(C/2026/5428)

On 16 July 2026, the Commission adopted a decision pursuant to Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 of the European Parliament and of the Council [1]. In accordance with the provisions of Article 44 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925, the Commission herewith publishes the names of the parties and the main content of the decision, having regard to the legitimate interest of undertakings in the protection of their business secrets.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

(1) On 5 September 2023, the Commission adopted a decision designating Alphabet Inc. ('Alphabet') as a gatekeeper under the Digital Markets Act ('DMA') for a number of its services. One of these services is the Google Android operating system ('Google Android'), which is listed as a core platform service ('CPS'). Alphabet must as a result comply with the obligations set forth in the DMA in relation to Google Android. This includes Article 6(7) DMA, which imposes on Alphabet an obligation to provide third parties, free of charge, with equally effective interoperability with the same Google Android features as are available to or used by Alphabet itself.

(2) This Implementing Decision (the 'Decision') concludes, within the time limit set by the DMA, the specification proceedings opened on 27 January 2026 pursuant to Article 8(2) DMA and specifies the measures that Alphabet must implement in relation to Google Android to effectively comply with its obligations under Article 6(7) DMA.

(3) This Decision follows a structured six-month process, which includes extensive discussions with Alphabet and a public consultation to gather input from relevant stakeholders.

(4) On the basis of its exchanges with Alphabet and third parties, the Commission identified a number of Google Android features necessary for third parties to provide AI services for which interoperability needed to be improved to effectively comply with Article 6(7) DMA. Having assessed the overall body of evidence, including Alphabet's and third parties' input, the Decision imposes measures that Alphabet has to implement under Article 6(7) DMA to ensure effective interoperability with those Google Android features. The Decision thereby clarifies Alphabet's obligations under Article 6(7) DMA for those features.

2. **PROCEDURE**

(5) Since October 2023, the Commission has held an extensive regulatory dialogue with Alphabet concerning Alphabet's compliance with Article 6(7) DMA, including numerous technical meetings and requests for information to specifically discuss its approach to AI services on Google Android.

(6) On 27 January 2026, the Commission opened proceedings pursuant to Article 20(1) DMA in view of specifying the measures that Alphabet must implement to effectively comply with its interoperability obligations in relation to a set of Google Android features which are available to or used by Alphabet to offer AI services. Since the opening of the proceedings the Commission has extensively engaged with both Alphabet and third parties, including through multiple meetings and requests for information.

[1] Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2022 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector and amending Directives (EU) 2019/1937 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Digital Markets Act) (OJ L 265, 12.10.2022, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1925/oj).

(7) On 27 April 2026, the Commission communicated its preliminary findings to Alphabet in line with Articles 8(5) and 34(1) DMA ('Preliminary Findings'), providing Alphabet with the opportunity to comment on its findings and the proposed measures.

(8) In parallel, the Commission published the proposed measures and a non-confidential summary of the case to enable interested third parties to provide comments. The Commission received 53 contributions in the context of the public consultation, including from business users, end users and device manufacturers ('OEMs'). These submissions were shared with Alphabet.

(9) On 26 May 2026, Alphabet provided its response to the Preliminary Findings after exercising its procedural rights pursuant to Articles 8(1), 8(2) and 8(3) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/814 ([2]) (2).

(10) In accordance with Articles 17 and 50(2) DMA, the Digital Markets Advisory Committee was consulted and issued its positive opinion on 15 July 2026.

3. **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

(11) Pursuant to Article 6(7) DMA, a gatekeeper shall allow providers of services and providers of hardware, free of charge, effective interoperability with, and access for the purposes of interoperability to, the same hardware and software features accessed or controlled via the operating system listed in the designation decision pursuant to Article 3(9) DMA as are available to services or hardware provided by the gatekeeper. Article 6(7) DMA allows the gatekeeper to take strictly necessary and proportionate measures to ensure that interoperability does not compromise the integrity of the operating system.

(12) For some of the obligations foreseen in the DMA, and pursuant to Article 8(2) DMA, the Commission may, on its own initiative or at the request of a gatekeeper, issue an implementing act to specify measures that the gatekeeper should implement to effectively comply with certain obligations. Article 6(7) DMA is one of the obligations that is susceptible of being further specified under Article 8(2) DMA.

(13) Pursuant to Article 8(7) DMA, in specifying the measures that the gatekeeper concerned is to implement to effectively comply with its obligations, the Commission shall ensure that the measures are effective in achieving the objectives of that Regulation and the relevant obligation, and that they are proportionate in the specific circumstances of the gatekeeper and the relevant service.

4. **THE COMMISSION'S ASSESSMENT**

(14) Achieving effective interoperability under Article 6(7) DMA is of paramount importance to ensure contestability of services and hardware offered to end users for which Google Android acts as an important gateway. In particular, effective and equal access to Google Android features is essential for third-party AI services to compete with Alphabet's own services on equal footing.

(15) The Decision specifies measures in relation to an important set of Google Android features. These features can be grouped into four categories: invocation features, context features, app and device systems integration features, and access to resources features. These are further described below.

(16) The Decision also allows Alphabet to implement strong security, privacy and integrity safeguards and risk mitigation measures. For particularly sensitive features, this includes allowing Alphabet to restrict access to those features to third parties meeting specific eligibility criteria. The features for which access may be limited on that basis are (i) centralised access to data that apps store on-device, (ii) context-aware intelligence, (iii) structured on-device integration, (iv) screen automation and (v) system integration.

([2]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/814 of 14 April 2023 on detailed arrangements for the conduct of certain proceedings by the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 102, 17.4.2023, p. 6, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/814/oj).

4.1. **Features for invocation**

(17) Invocation allows users to invoke and activate AI assistants, notably through access buttons (e.g. double press on home button) or voice commands (e.g. saying 'Hey Assistant'). The Decision specifies measures in relation to the following Google Android invocation features:

(a) Long-press home button/navigation handle: these are crucial access points on all Android devices that enable users to easily invoke AI assistants and provide the invoked app with the capability to analyse the current on-screen context and assist the user on that basis. This is key, for instance, for translation- and search-oriented tasks. On most (if not all) Android devices, these access points are currently hardwired to Alphabet's services. The Decision requires Alphabet to grant third parties access to these entry points and to allow users to customise other access points as they prefer.

(b) Always-on hotword detection: this feature allows users to activate the AI assistant simply by saying a specific phrase ('Hey Assistant'). Access to this feature is currently reserved to some preinstalled apps (i.e. AI assistants installed by users cannot use the feature). The Decision proposes alternative solutions that would also enable assistants installed by the user to access this feature.

4.2. **Features for context**

(18) Context enables AI assistants (subject to user consent) to access the user's contextual data (e.g. photos, email, messages, microphone, etc.) and use it to offer a customised, proactive agentic experience (e.g. live translation, surface booking numbers when flight check-in becomes available, etc.). The Decision specifies measures in relation to the following Google Android context features:

(a) Centralised access to data that apps store on-device: data stored by apps on a user's device is an essential input for AI assistants to understand the user and provide tailored services. This feature enables AI assistants (subject to the consent of both the relevant app and the user) to effectively access and use that data. Access to the feature is currently reserved to one single assistant (the default assistant). In addition, Alphabet uses a parallel implementation to share its apps' data only with its own services, including Gemini. The Decision requires Alphabet to enable access to the feature by various assistants concurrently, and to provide third parties with data from Alphabet's apps when Alphabet uses this feature to make such data available to Gemini.

(b) Context-aware intelligence: this feature enables AI assistants to offer continuous, context-aware intelligent experiences tailored to each user that enhance users' device experience – for instance by anticipating their needs and proactively suggesting actions or surfacing information without the user having to ask. This feature relies on various building blocks (functionalities) that AI assistants can combine to build different services, making it an important vector for innovation. These building blocks include, for instance, access to data stored on device and access to the device's processing resources. Only OEMs and Alphabet itself currently have access to this feature. The Decision requires Alphabet to provide third parties with equally effective access.

(c) Ambient data: this feature allows AI assistants to use the constant flow of information that devices pick up and send out (through for instance, the microphone, the camera, the speakers, etc.) to provide user-tailored experiences in real-time (e.g. object recognition via the camera). Third parties currently face fragmented, subpar access to this feature compared to Alphabet. The Decision requires Alphabet to ensure that third parties have access to the feature on equal terms, including in terms of data quality, latency, user-consent flows, etc.

4.3. **Features for actions on apps and the OS**

(19) Actions on apps and the OS allow AI assistants to carry out tasks on other apps and on the system on behalf of the user (e.g. book an Uber). The Decision specifies measures in relation to the following Google Android app and OS actions features:

(a) Structured on-device integration: this feature enables AI assistants to perform actions in other apps at the user's request (e.g. order an Uber). Currently, third-party AI assistants installed by users do not have full access to the feature. The Decision requires Alphabet to ensure equal access to this feature for third parties and clarifies that ensuring equal access must be understood as including the possibility for third parties to perform certain actions in certain Alphabet apps (e.g. Gmail. YouTube, Maps) via existing Google Android integration channels and subject to user consent.

(b) Screen automation: this feature makes it possible for AI assistants to perform actions on apps and carry out multi-step tasks on behalf of the user in the background, allowing the user to do something else with the device in the meantime. Alphabet currently accesses and uses the feature, but third-party AI assistants installed by users cannot access it. The Decision requires Alphabet to ensure equally effective access to the feature for third parties.

(c) System integration: this feature enables AI assistants to integrate and interact with the operating system itself on behalf of the user (e.g. to change a setting or open an app). Alphabet currently enjoys full access to the feature while third-party AI assistants installed by users can only access a reduced set of system integrations. The Decision requires Alphabet to guarantee full and equally effective interoperability with the feature for third parties.

4.4. **Features for access to resources**

(20) Resources enable AI assistants to perform well and as effectively as Alphabet's Gemini (e.g. access to AI models running on the device for a more privacy-oriented experience). The Decision specifies measures in relation to the following Google Android access to resources features:

(a) System-level on-device models: system-level on-device models are AI models embedded on the device that run directly on the device's hardware (e.g. Gemini Nano). This allows these models to process data on-device (instead of on-cloud), which has benefits in terms of latency, offline availability and privacy. Hardware limitations however imply that the number of system-level on-device models that may be present on a device is limited. The Decision requires Alphabet to grant third parties equal access to all of Alphabet's system-level on-device models as available to Alphabet's own services, so that they too can use those models.

(b) On-device model implementation: this feature allows AI providers to implement AI models on-device and use them for their own apps or offer them to third-party services (other apps). The feature is reliant on various building blocks (functionalities), including access to hardware resources, background execution capabilities or the ability to make models centrally available to other apps present on the device. Currently, Alphabet's AI models have access to functionalities that remain inaccessible for third parties. The Decision requires Alphabet to grant third parties equal access to those functionalities so that they have the same ability to implement and use on-device models.

(c) Background execution: this feature enables apps to execute actions in the background, even if the user is not actively looking at the app or using the device. It is particularly relevant for AI assistants, as it allows them to automate tasks and assist users by performing actions on their behalf while they do something else. Currently, only OEMs and Alphabet itself have full background execution capabilities. The Decision requires Alphabet to ensure that third parties have equal access to the feature through the application of transparent, objective, precise and non-discriminatory rules.

4.5. **Measures for all features**

(21) To ensure the effectiveness of the abovementioned measures, the Decision also requires Alphabet to implement a few additional measures of a general nature. These include, for example, obligations to provide third parties with access to future feature updates. The Decision further establishes reporting obligations enabling the Commission to monitor Alphabet's effective and timely compliance.

(22) The measures are further specified in the Annex to the Decision.

(23) Alphabet must implement most of the measures foreseen in the Decision in the next major Android release, which is Android 18, and by 1 August 2027 at the latest. Concurrent hotword detection allowing multiple services to be triggered via voice invocation must be implemented in Android 19, and by 1 August 2028 at the latest.

(24) While the Decision provides guidance as to which interoperability gaps need to be addressed and specifies the measures to do so, Alphabet remains in control of the concrete implementation solutions.

5. **CONCLUSION**

(25) The Decision specifies measures pursuant to Article 8(2) DMA that Alphabet must implement in relation to its operating system Google Android in order to effectively comply with the obligations under Article 6(7) DMA in relation to certain Google Android features available to or used by Alphabet to offer AI services, within the deadlines specified in the Annex to the Decision.