

ECIS, the European Committee for Interoperable Systems, welcomes the Digital Markets Act

ECIS welcomes the adoption of the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and supports its objective to create a more level playing field online to “tackle imbalances caused by the market power of gatekeepers” in a more effective and open manner which drives genuine freedom of choice for companies and citizens in Europe. The European Commission has taken this step after their experience of not having the right tools and measures to prevent anticompetitive behaviour in online markets in a timely and effective way.

Online platforms must be more open and interoperable for both consumers and enterprises, and therefore ECIS believes that the mechanisms and rules that the European Commission has set out in the DMA are justified and appropriate. We believe that these measures are adequately targeted on dominant online platforms and will positively impact their customers (both private and public sector) which lack similar power to dictate terms to the rest of the market; it hence will support innovation.

The DMA crucially fosters competition in digital markets through its interoperability requirements. ECIS’ main mission over the past 30 years has been to strive for better interoperability, not only between software systems but also between data sets. We strongly support the interoperability requirements set out in the DMA and believe that these provisions will lead to a more innovative, competitive marketplace.

Open software standards and open source are the bedrock for more effective interoperability, and the DMA, combined with the Data Act (DA), will further drive the adoption of open standards and open source and lead to a more competitive market in cloud computing and platforms.

ECIS considers that the DMA is well complemented by the proposed DA which brings yet more “fairness in the allocation of data value”. Importantly, the high watermark for a healthy competitive cloud and platform environment in Europe is the wide adoption of genuine open standards, open formats, open and transparent technical specifications, and predictable consistent open standards based APIs, reinforced by regulatory measures such as the DMA and DA.