

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**on competition policy – annual report 2025
(2025/2134(INI))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), in particular to Articles 101 to 109 thereof,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector and amending Directives (EU) 2019/1937 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Digital Markets Act),
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (the EC Merger Regulation)¹,
- having regard to the Guidelines on the assessment of horizontal mergers under the Council Regulation on the control of concentrations between undertakings ([2004/C 31/03](#))
- having regard to the Guidelines on the assessment of non-horizontal mergers under the Council Regulation on the control of concentrations between undertakings ([2008/C 265/07](#))
- having regard to the European Parliament’s report on facilitating the financing of investments and reforms to boost European competitiveness and creating a Capital Markets Union (Draghi Report) - ([2024/2116\(INI\)](#)),
- having regard to the report by Enrico Letta of 10 April 2024 entitled ‘Much more than a Market – Speed, Security, Solidarity: Empowering the Single Market to deliver a sustainable future and prosperity for all EU Citizens’,
- having regard to the report by Jörg Kukies and Christian Noyer entitled “Financing Innovative Ventures In Europe”
- having regard to the European Commission’s [Competitiveness Compass](#)
- having regard to the European Commission’s proposal of 21 January 2026 for Regulation on the digital networks (the Digital Networks Act)

¹ OJ L 024, 29.1.2004, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2004/139/oj>.

- having regard to the Factual Summary of the contributions received in the context of the public consultation on the review of the horizontal and the non-horizontal Merger Guidelines, Ares (2025)9259927 of 29 October 2025,
 - having regard to the Commission Staff Working Document Evaluation of the Commission Notice on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid in the form of guarantees, SWD(2025) 331 final,
 - having regard to the study of the European Commission on [Ex post evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of EU antitrust remedies](#),
 - having regard to Guidelines on the application of certain provisions of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 of the European Parliament and of the Council on foreign subsidies distorting the internal market, [C\(2026\)42](#)
 - having regard to the European Commission’s communication of 26 February 2025 entitled “The Clean Industrial Deal: A joint roadmap for competitiveness and decarbonisation”
having regard to the Communication from the Commission – Framework for State Aid measures to support the Clean Industrial Deal (Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework) [C\(2025\)7600](#),
 - having regard to Commission Staff Working Document Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission Framework for State Aid measures to support the Clean Industrial Deal (Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework), [SWD\(2025\)850 final](#) of 4.11.2025,
 - having regard to Commission Staff Working Document Evaluation of the Commission Notice on the application of Articles 87 and 88 on the EC Treaty to State aid in the form of guarantees, [SWD\(2025\) 330 final](#) of 13 October 2025,
 - having regard to the Commission Decision on the application of Article 106(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest and repealing Decision 2012/21/EU, [C\(2025\)8820](#) final and its Annex,
 - having regard to Rule 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A10-0000/2026),
- A. Whereas EU competition policy must be forward-looking, foster EU solutions and innovation, and protect consumers;
- B. Whereas safeguarding the single market requires uncompromising competition rules, resisting external influence, particularly from the United States ;

Reclaiming Europe's Strategic Autonomy through Competition Policy, Innovation and Digital Sovereignty

1. Recalls the EU's strong competition framework as a tool to enhance competitiveness across all industries; Underlines that EU policies should not be pursued in silos and that competitiveness concerns cannot be interpreted as shortcomings in competition policy; recalls that EU competition rules must support EU policies, such as industrial, trade, consumer, and financial services policies;
2. Strongly supports the Draghi and Letta reports for setting priorities in the competition field, and calls for their follow-up;
3. Emphasizes the key role of competition in creating digital market alternatives and reducing dependence on third-country providers; Urges to build key infrastructures to boost Europe's autonomy and innovation, including cloud services, AI infrastructures (data centres and connectivity), and financial market infrastructures, to support the EU's digital sovereignty;
4. Calls for a European preference in strategic sectors;
5. Underlines the importance of Important Projects of Common European Interest for financing large strategic Union projects; calls on the Commission to shorten or fast-track notifications as they are burdensome for SMEs;
6. Welcomes the Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR) enforcement addressing distortions caused by foreign investments and the FSR Guidelines; suggests addressing trade distortions via the FSR and FDI screening alongside traditional trade defence instruments;

An independent European Competition Authority

7. Calls for a real independent European Competition Authority under democratic oversight, separate from the executive branch to ensure no political interference, integrating antitrust, merger control, state aid, consumer policy and digital enforcement; stresses the need for adequate staffing, expertise and powers;

The DMA enforcement amid Global Challenges

8. Urges the Commission to fully enforce the EU competition rulebook to safeguard Europe's regulatory autonomy against political pressures, particularly from the United States;
9. Underlines that effective enforcement can only be achieved if abuse of dominance rules (Art. 102 TFEU), and the DMA work together, combining ex-ante and ex-post approaches; calls on the Commission to streamline and better articulate the competition rulebook;
10. Supports enforcement under the DMA; welcomes the Commission's recent market investigations into cloud service providers, such as Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure and, its two proceedings against Google on the Android interoperability and FRAND access to anonymised Google Search data;
11. Recalls that enforcement of the DMA is still suboptimal; Suggests stable funding through a "DMA fee," similar to the DSA;

12. Calls for a transparent, thorough and ambitious DMA review process expected in May 2026;
13. Urges the Commission to consider AI and cloud services as core platform services within the DMA; requests the Commission to include SMEs in the DMA review consultations;
14. Stresses that DMA enforcement applies to all market participants regardless of nationality; notes Booking's gatekeeper status and recalls that the French and Spanish authorities sanctioned the company on its parity clauses; urges the Commission to take decisive action accordingly;

Antitrust

15. Urges the Commission to use interim measures to stop any practices that harm competition, especially in fast-evolving digital markets; calls on the Commission to modernise Regulation 1/2003 and implementing Regulation 773/2004 in its upcoming review, especially regarding the use of interim measures;
16. Reaffirms the need for strong cooperation between the Commission and national competition authorities within the European Competition Network;
17. Notes current investigations of US-based companies, including the Commission's preliminary investigation into Visa and Mastercard fees; calls on the Commission to pursue its investigation and act to preserve European competition, and emphasizes the need to review the Interchange Fee Regulation to address rising card scheme fees and ensure a competitive and transparent market for Europeans;

Merger control

18. Stresses that Europe lacks large-scale companies; considers scale as a strategic Union imperative, as highlighted by the Letta report, to compete effectively on global markets;
19. Calls on the Commission to apply competition policies dynamically, adapt them to new market realities, and analyse ex-post effects of concentrations;
20. Calls for an ambitious revision of the EU merger guidelines to better align with the Union's industrial and sectoral policy objectives while continuing to safeguard high consumer welfare; insists that merger control should not obstruct paneuropean mergers creating "EU champions" in key sectors, like telecom, banking, payments and energy, while safeguarding fair competition;
21. Calls on the Commission to adopt a forward-looking approach to mergers, taking efficiency gains into account, allowing companies to form alliances when they contribute to innovation, climate, resilience and security, and reflect sector-specific realities beyond prices and market shares;
22. Recalls competition safeguards consumer choice; notes Netflix and Paramount's interest in acquiring Warner Bros and calls for a thorough review of future audiovisual mergers;

23. Calls on the Commission to detect and prevent “killer acquisitions,” particularly in AI and other strategic sectors and urges Member States to give national competition authorities “call in” powers, if not already the case;

State aid

24. Welcomes the Clean Industrial State Aid Framework (CISAF); calls for CISAF minimally burdensome implementation and avoiding subsidy races between Member States;
25. Expects the review of the General Block Exemption Regulation to modernise and simplify state aid rules, to reduce red tape and boost Europe’s competitiveness;
26. Welcomes the adoption of a revised SGEI decision C(2025)8829 to enable Member States to support affordable housing projects;

Parliamentary involvement

27. Deplores the persistent lack of information of the European Parliament in the revision and implementation of competition rules; insists on its full, timely information and involvement;
28. Emphasises the need for transparency with the European Parliament about all discussions with third countries that may affect DMA enforcement;
29. Promotes exchange of best practices in international fora, as the International Competition Network and the OECD Competition Committee, and deplores missed opportunities as the TTIP;
30. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In an increasingly fragmented global economy marked by geopolitical pressure and growing market concentration, EU competition policy must not only ensure effective competition in the Single Market but also defend Europe's strategic autonomy and regulatory sovereignty. Our rules must be applied without compromise, ensuring that economic success is driven by innovation, efficiency, and consumer choice rather than by the abuse of dominance. Recent external pressures, particularly from the United States, repeatedly challenged our frameworks, including the Digital Markets Act (DMA), and such interference cannot be tolerated. Competition policy must evolve and become forward-looking, supporting European innovation while firmly resisting external political influence. Europe will not outsource its sovereignty: our competition rules are non-negotiable and they are enforceable on all market actors.

Against this backdrop, our competition rulebook is a central pillar of Europe's strategic autonomy. The EU competition acquis has long supported broader Union objectives by enabling firms to grow and innovate under fair conditions. Building on the recommendations of the Draghi and Letta reports, competition policy must be adapted to new market realities. This includes actively promoting technology-friendly market conditions, based on open standards and interoperable infrastructures. In this context, cloud services should be recognised as strategic European infrastructure, critical for digital sovereignty. Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) must be delivered faster, through simplified or fast-track notification procedures, particularly for SMEs. At the same time, the enforcement of the Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR) is an important and necessary tool to address distortions caused by foreign state-backed investments. Europe must defend its markets and technological edge.

To deliver on this objectives, effective enforcement is essential to the credibility of the EU competition rulebook. The Union should move towards a strong and independent European Competition Authority under democratic oversight by the European Parliament. Such an authority must be separated from the executive branch to shield it from any political interference, in line with the model of national competition authorities. This would ensure consistent, impartial, and credible enforcement of EU competition. It should be empowered to enforce antitrust, merger control, state aid, digital, and consumer policy rules, and be equipped with adequate human and financial resources.

Europe should also strengthen its international cooperation. European and global partners should make full use of international fora, such as the International Competition Network (ICN) and the OECD Competition Committee, to promote cooperation and convergence in competition enforcement.

When it comes to the DMA, enforcement must be strict, independent, and non-negotiable. The DMA is indispensable to restoring competition in digital markets dominated by powerful gatekeepers. It must apply equally to all market participants and safeguard Europe's regulatory autonomy from external political influence. The robustness of the EU competition rulebook depends on the DMA and abuse-of-dominance rules working together, combining ex-ante and ex-post enforcement. Nonetheless, recent investigations into major cloud service providers and digital payment systems illustrate both the scale and the complexity of DMA enforcement. We observe that the DMA enforcement remains uneven and requires a transparent and thorough review, including of cloud services and AI interfaces with a view to designate them as core

platform services. Enforcement of the Digital Markets Act should be supported by a dedicated supervisory fee, similar to the supervisory fee introduced under the Digital Services Act.

In parallel, traditional antitrust enforcement remains the backbone of competition policy and must be modernised to address algorithmic, data-driven market power, and artificial intelligence. Regulation 1/2003 and its implementing rules require updating. In that regard, full cooperation within the European Competition Network (ECN), between the Commission and national competition authorities, is more than necessary. When it comes to Commission enforcement, its use of interim measures remains insufficient and should be normalised to stop anti-competitive practices in fast-changing markets, such as the digital market.

In addition, merger control must also evolve to remain effective in changing market conditions. Merger guidelines should be revised to better reflect innovation, investment, and long-term competitiveness, while safeguarding high consumer welfare and preventing killer acquisitions, notably in AI and other strategic sectors. A forward-looking approach is particularly needed in telecoms and audiovisual markets. At the same time, Europe's lack of scale in strategic sectors undermines its competitiveness and resilience and calls for a framework that does not hamper paneuropean mergers and thus enables the emergence of European champions in key sectors like telecoms, payment, banking and energy, to able to compete globally and secure Europe's strategic autonomy. State aid policy must also support the green and digital transitions without fragmenting the Single Market, through the Clean Industrial State Aid Framework, a simplified GBER, and effective IPCEIs.

Finally, competition policy must be subject to strong democratic oversight. The European Parliament must be fully and timely involved in the revision, implementation, and external dimension of competition policy, including all discussions with third countries that may affect DMA enforcement. Transparency and accountability are essential to maintain legitimacy, trust, and public support for a strong and credible EU competition framework. Europe's rules are our rules: external actors have no veto over how we enforce competition. Our regulatory autonomy is a cornerstone of our strategic sovereignty and has to be defended at all costs