

STATEMENTS

New Campaign: How Digital Markets Act Has Become Europe's Digital Curtain

Europe's tech law has turned Europeans into second-class digital citizens

FEB 10, 2025

Today, Chamber of Progress unveiled a new campaign – [Europe's Digital Curtain < https://thedigitalcurtain.eu/>](https://thedigitalcurtain.eu/) – highlighting how Europe's Digital Markets Act (DMA) has turned European consumers into “second-class digital citizens.” The campaign and accompanying report show how the Digital Markets Act has led to degraded, less secure, and less available tech services for European consumers – shrouding Europe in a ‘Digital Curtain’ of technological stagnation.

Visit the campaign:

<https://thedigitalcurtain.eu> < <https://thedigitalcurtain.eu>>

Read The Report < <https://progresschamber.org/research/europes-digital-curtain/>>

The European Commission designed the DMA to target large tech companies, referred to as “gatekeepers.” Since the DMA's obligations came into force in March, European consumers have already encountered a degraded digital experience. The report – by Senior Director for Europe Kay Jebelli and Policy Analyst Hope Ledford – lays out the real-world impacts of the DMA, including:

- **Degraded User Experiences:** European consumers are grappling with more fragmented, less intuitive digital services. From disjointed search results to cumbersome app installations, the DMA has introduced friction where seamless integration once prevailed.
- **Increased Privacy and Security Risks:** The forced modularity mandated by the DMA has created security gaps and exposed users to greater fraud and cybersecurity threats. The introduction of third-party app stores and sideloading has created new vectors for malware and bad actors, potentially compromising user data.
- **Delayed or Unavailable Innovations:** The regulatory uncertainty surrounding the DMA has led to significant delays in the rollout of cutting-edge technologies in Europe. From AI-

powered features to new social media platforms, European users are increasingly finding themselves behind the global curve in accessing the latest digital innovations. In some cases, companies have been forced to remove features entirely from their European offerings to comply with the DMA, leaving EU consumers without important innovations compared to their global counterparts.

Several jurisdictions are considering market interventions ostensibly to stimulate competition in line with the DMA's requirements, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, and the UK. This report gives some insight as to what such changes may mean for consumers impacted by the new rules.

"The EU wanted to support competitors, but what European consumers have to show for it are second-class digital services lagging behind the rest of the world," said Chamber of Progress Senior Director for Europe Kay Jebelli. "We were promised a DMA that would simplify enforcement and protect innovation, but what we see is competitor interests being put ahead of consumers. Competition is supposed to make consumers better off, not worse."

Upon the DMA's finalization in 2022, Chamber of Progress [expressed concerns <https://progresschamber.org/eu-finalizes-digital-markets-act-targeting-us-tech/>](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbxdOsQixNubyBcIKMDp6w/videos) that the framework could unfairly target U.S. tech companies at the expense of consumers.

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Chamber of Progress (progresschamber.org) is a center-left tech industry policy coalition promoting technology's progressive future. We work to ensure that everyone benefits from technological leaps, and that the tech industry operates responsibly and fairly. Our corporate partners do not have a vote on or veto over our positions. We do not speak for individual partner companies and remain true to our stated principles even when our partners disagree.

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