

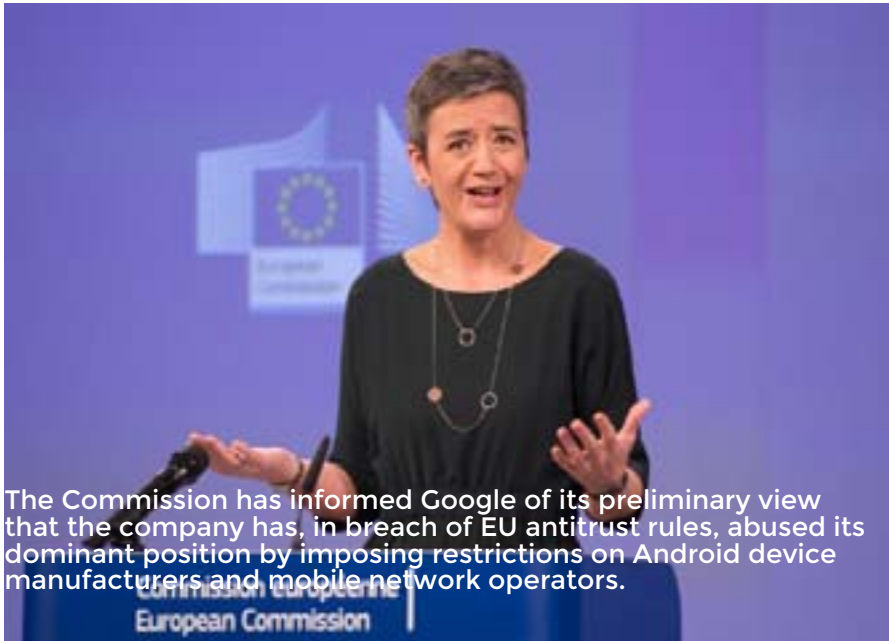


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The Commission has informed Google of its preliminary view that the company has, in breach of EU antitrust rules, abused its dominant position by imposing restrictions on Android device manufacturers and mobile network operators.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION CHARGES GOOGLE OVER ANDROID

POLITICO.EU

The European Commission on Wednesday leveled antitrust charges against Google's Android operating system, alleging the company devised a web of contracts and secret payments that hampered innovation in the Internet economy.

The move injects fresh blood into a six-year battle between European regulations and the search giant, which has drawn accusations of protectionism from across the Atlantic.

Once again Margrethe Vestager, the European commissioner for competition, is at the forefront of Europe's efforts to rein in the tech titans, and in the cross hairs of U.S. critics who see Google in a more benign light.

"We found that Google pursues an overall strategy on mobile devices to protect and expand its dominant position in Internet search," she said.

In response, Kent Walker, the general counsel of Google parent company Alphabet, pointed to the success of apps like Spotify, WhatsApp or Instagram as evidence consumers are able to download apps they liked.

He argued it was normal that, given Google provided Android for free, it sought to generate revenue through apps and other services.

Google has 12 weeks to submit a formal response to antitrust enforcers.



GERMANY SPARS WITH BELGIUM OVER AGEING NUCLEAR PLANTS

THELOCAL.DE



Belgium on Wednesday rejected a request by Germany to shutter two ageing nuclear plants near their shared border, arguing the facilities met with the strictest safety standards.

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FRENCH GOVT TO PROPOSE EXTENDING STATE OF EMERGENCY

FRANCE24.COM



France plans to extend the state of emergency put in place after the November 2015 militant Islamist attacks on Paris for a further two months to ensure security at the Euro 2016 football tournament, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Wednesday.

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€ JUNCKER SEES NO NEED FOR EXTRA MEASURES TO CONCLUDE GREEK BAILOUT REVIEW

EKATHIMERINI.COM

Greece should not need extra measures to wrap up an ongoing bailout review with lenders, European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker has said admitting however that the European Union and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may have to bridge their diverging assessments about the state of the Greek economy.

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🌐 OBAMA HEADS TO LONDON ON MISSION TO PERSUADE UK VOTERS TO STAY IN EU

REUTERS.COM

U.S. President Barack Obama flies to London on Thursday with a mission: to persuade wavering British voters not to ditch membership of the European Union in a June 23 referendum that Washington fears could weaken the West.

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🔍 NEW PLANS TO CLOSE FIREARMS LOOPHOLES UNVEILED BY ECR MEP

ECRGROUP.EU

Legal controls on blank firing guns, basic standards for firearms storage, mandatory medical checks for licence holders and tighter controls on the sale of ammunition are being proposed in an attempt to close loopholes in European gun laws.

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🏛️ EU MEMBER STATES GRANTED PROTECTION TO MORE THAN 330 000 ASYLUM SEEKERS IN 2015

EUROPA.EU

The 28 Member States of the European Union (EU) granted protection status to 333 350 asylum seekers in 2015, an increase of 72% compared with 2014. Since 2008, a total of nearly 1.1 million asylum seekers have been granted protection status in the EU.

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🏛️ TURKISH CITIZENS MAY HAVE VISA-FREE EU TRAVEL BY EARLY MAY

IRISHTIMES.COM

Visa-free travel for Turkish citizens travelling to the EU may be agreed as early as May 4th, the European Commission said on Wednesday, as it reported "good progress" on the implementation of a controversial EU-Turkey deal that aims to reduce the number of migrants arriving in Europe.

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THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- **19:00 Subcommittee on Security and Defence.** The agenda includes: Nuclear Security Summit and related issues - discussion with **Jacek Bylica**, Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament, EEAS, Public hearing on **'Cyber Warfare: a real menace to EU security'** (PSH - 5B001).
- **9:00 Committee on International Trade.** The agenda includes: Discussion with **Cecilia Malmström**, Commissioner for Trade, on Structured Dialogue European Parliament - European Commission, Trade Agreement between the EU and its Member States, of the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part, to take account of the accession of Croatia to the EU (adoption of draft recommendation (consent), rapporteur **Santiago Fisas Aixelá**, EPP) (PSH - 1A002).
- **9:00 Committee on Budgetary Control.** The agenda includes: ECA Special Report N°18/2015 (2015 Discharge) on **'Financial assistance provided to Member States in difficulties'** - presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, **Baudilio Tomé Muguruza**, and consideration of a working document (rapporteur **Inés Ayala Sender**, S&D) (JAN - 6Q-2).
- **9:00 Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.** The agenda includes: Structured Dialogue European Parliament - European Commission, Discussion with **Günther Oettinger**, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers (adoption of draft report by **Theresa Griffin**, S&D) (JAN - 2Q2).
- **9:00 Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.** The agenda includes: The Single Market Strategy (adoption of draft report by **Lara Comi**, EPP), Unfair trading practices in the food supply chain (adoption of draft report by **Edward Czesak**, ECR), Non-Tariff Barriers in the Single Market (adoption of draft report by **Daniel Dalton**, ECR), Approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles - presentation by the Commission (rapporteur: **Daniel Dalton**, ECR) (PSH - 3C050).
- **9:00 Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.** The agenda includes: Protective measures against pests of plants (vote on the text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations, rapporteur **Anthea McIntyre**, ECR), Enhancing innovation and economic development in future European farm management (vote on a draft resolution by **Jan Huitema**, ALDE) (JAN - 4Q1).
- **9:00 Committee on Legal Affairs.** The agenda includes: Transfer to the General Court of the EU of jurisdiction at first instance in disputes between the Union and its servants (adoption of draft report by **Mady Delvaux**, S&D), Public hearing on legal and ethical aspects of robotics and artificial intelligence (ASP - 3E-2).
- **9:00 Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.** The agenda includes: European travel document for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals (discussion on draft report by **Jussi Halla-Aho**, ECR), Schengen Borders Code: reinforcement of checks against relevant databases at external borders (discussion on draft report by **Monica Macovei**, ECR) (JAN - 4Q2).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- **10:00 Justice and Home Affairs Council** takes place in Luxembourg. The Council will discuss security matters, following-up on the meeting of 24 March 2016, in the aftermath of the Brussels attacks (European Convention Centre).
- Friday, 9:00 **The Eurogroup** will discuss the next steps and the timeline for the completion of the first review of Greece's economic adjustment programme,

following a presentation on the state of play by the institutions (Amsterdam).

- Friday, 9:00 a two-day Informal meeting of **Economic and Financial Affairs** ministers starts in Amsterdam (Scheepvaartmuseum).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Yesterday, The Commission set out the way forward towards the achievement of an effective and genuine EU Security Union - building on **the European Agenda on Security** presented on 28 April 2015.

- Yesterday, The Commission proposed to the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament to **lift visa requirements for the citizens of Ukraine** by transferring Ukraine to the list of countries whose citizens can travel without a visa to the Schengen area.

WHO WHEN WHERE

- **9:00 EU Capitals Mayors' Meeting** takes place in Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam.
- **10:00** the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property organizes a **'Seminar Follow the Money: hitting infringers where it hurts'** (Rotterdam)

22.4. CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Michael GAHLER
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(56)



Hermann WINKLER
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