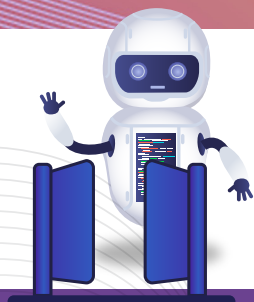




THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT AT WORK:

BETTER INTEROPERABILITY WITH iOS & iPadOS



To **support businesses** active in Europe, the Commission clarified how Apple must make iOS and iPadOS **more interoperable** with non-Apple devices and apps.

Device manufacturers and app developers will now have **new opportunities** to bring **innovative products and services** to the market.

iPhone and iPad users will have a **wider choice** of devices and apps with a **better user experience**.

What is interoperability?

- Deeper and more seamless integration of apps and devices with gatekeepers' ecosystems.
- Crucial for third parties to develop innovative products and services on gatekeeper platforms.
- All features controlled by the operating system must be interoperable.

Connected devices, such as smartwatches, headphones or TVs, of all brands will benefit from better access to crucial iOS connectivity features.

Changes are coming fast: by end of 2025 (in iOS 26) for some major features, and in 2026 for nearly all features.

The Commission requires Apple to adapt iOS and make connected devices work better with iPhones, for example:

Features for data transfers

iPhone users can use Peer-to-peer Wi-Fi to transfer files (similar to AirDrop) or stream video faster and more reliably from/to their non-Apple VR headsets.

Features for interactivity

iPhone users can now reply to iOS notifications on their non-Apple smartwatch or see rich content such as pictures, on par with Apple Watch.

Features for device set-up and configuration

iPhone users can use Proximity pairing to connect their non-Apple headphones more seamlessly by holding them near their iPhone.

Third parties can request Apple to implement new interoperability solutions. Clear rules make this process more transparent and effective.

Developers will benefit from a fast and fair handling of their interoperability requests.

The Commission requires Apple to enhance the process for developers to request new interoperability:

better technical documentation

timely communication

dispute resolution

predictable timeline

public tracker and reporting

Make the most of interoperability

The DMA is bringing real change. Any iOS or iPadOS developer can seize the opportunities that these changes bring about.

