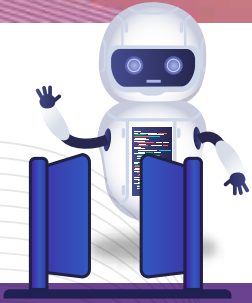# THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT AT WORK:
BETTER INTEROPERABILITY WITH iOS & iPadOS

As its **first enforcement action** to support businesses and end users under the DMA, in March 2025, the Commission specified how Apple must make iOS and iPadOS **more interoperable**.

The Commission's actions will give device manufacturers and app developers **new opportunities** to bring **innovative products** to the market, offering a **wider choice** and a **better user experience** to iPhone and iPad users.

What is interoperability?

- Interoperability enables a **deeper and more seamless integration** of apps and devices with gatekeepers' ecosystems.
- Interoperability is **key** for third parties to develop **innovative products and services** on gatekeeper platforms.
- Under the DMA, gatekeepers must provide interoperability with **all features controlled by the operating system**.

CONNECTED DEVICES

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**: in **iOS 26** (end of **2025**) for some major features, and in **2026** for nearly all features.

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

Features for data transfers

Non-Apple virtual reality headsets can use **Peer-to-peer Wi-Fi** to transfer files or stream video faster and more reliably.

Features for interactivity

iPhone users can reply to **iOS notifications** on their non-Apple smartwatch or see rich content such as pictures.

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.

PROCESS

For other iOS and iPadOS features, third parties can request Apple to implement additional interoperability. Apple gets **clear rules** to 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** of requesting interoperability:

- better technical **documentation**
- timely **communication**
- recourse for **rejections**
- 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.