Subject: Urgent Call for Strict Enforcement of the Digital Markets Act / Gatekeepers must contribute to the costs of enforcement

Dear Commissioner Margrethe Vestager,
Dear Commissioner Thierry Breton,
Dear Director-General Roberto Viola,
Dear Director-General Olivier Guersent,

the DMA has finally recognised that the market power of gatekeepers is detrimental to SMEs, consumers, workers and a danger for democracy. We are therefore greatly concerned about the announcements by some Big Tech companies that they will only comply with the Digital Markets Act (DMA) to a limited extent. At the same time, with a staff of just 80 people, the Commission has limited resources for DMA enforcement and understandably has to prioritise.

We are writing to you to urge you to take resolute action to enforce the DMA. The DMA is a crucial step towards ensuring a level playing field for SMEs, protecting consumers, workers and democracy. As the main enforcer of these rules, the Commission has a key role to play in safeguarding the digital landscape and limiting the power of Big Tech. We demand that:

• The Commission must respond swiftly and decisively to any violations of the DMA. Timely enforcement is essential to deter gatekeepers from further violations.

• Gatekeepers must provide comprehensive reports that allow affected third parties to participate in the enforcement process. Incomplete reports must be promptly rejected by the Commission. Transparency is crucial to ensure that third parties can hold gatekeepers and regulators to account.

• The proper implementation of the DMA needs additional funding mirroring the DSA, the gatekeepers themselves should contribute financially to their supervision. This would enable the Commission to hire additional staff, a critical factor for effective enforcement. We ask the Commission to take forward this proposal.
• Sufficient staff is central to effective enforcement. The Commission must prioritize allocating resources to enforce the DMA rigorously and should set itself the goal of providing at least 220 people for DMA enforcement, as demanded by DMA rapporteur Andreas Schwab.

Yours sincerely,