

# AN OPEN LETTER FROM EUROPE'S OPEN SOURCE INDUSTRY

**TO: The European Commission**  
**TO: All Members of the European Parliament**  
**TO: All EU Governments**

The EU Tech Sovereignty Package represents the most significant opportunity in a generation to anchor Europe's digital infrastructure in foundations that Europe can genuinely control. We are writing as the open source industry that builds, maintains and brings to market those foundations to say plainly: this moment requires more than ambition, it requires a principle.

## **That principle is Open Source First.**

We ask that EU legislation establishes, as a binding requirement, that all public sector procurement of software and digital services must assess whether a qualified open source solution exists before a proprietary alternative is considered. That assessment must be documented and auditable.

The case for this intervention is straightforward. The public sector is the largest single driver of proprietary software lock-in in Europe – the source of our weak sovereignty posture. That dependency is not inevitable, it is the accumulated result of procurement decisions made without a systematic obligation to consider the alternative. An Open Source First requirement would change the default. Not by banning proprietary software, not by banning non-EU software, but by ensuring the Sovereign alternative is genuinely considered and the choice made transparently.

The benefits of open source for digital sovereignty are well understood. What is missing is the market signal that makes them realisable at scale. The EU Cloud and AI Development Act is that signal.

Europe's open source industry is ready. We are asking for the policy environment that makes it possible.

Respectfully,

Adfinis



Collabora Office



Dropsolid



Element



Nextcloud



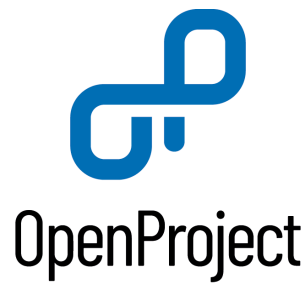
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