Beginning September 1, a new search preference menu is allegedly active on new Android phones purchased in Europe - Business Insider and Politico reported on it. We say allegedly as there is actually no way for us to verify the preference menu is active, know which phones are "certified" to display it, or measure overall progress, because Google is choosing to withhold this information. After one year of Google actually profiting off the antitrust sanction with a flawed pay-to-play mechanism, we get an inch of progress towards fair competition, when we need a mile. Switching your search default continues to be "one factory reset away". Google wants to make it as hard as possible for people to get to choose a search engine that doesn’t track their every move or profit from their data. We believe users should be able to change this setting at any time, including via a prompt from a search engine app or website.

The Digital Markets Act should guarantee that right, and prohibit gatekeepers like Google from securing and establishing defaults for their search engine across the search access points of a gatekeeping operating system - our DMA position expands on that.

Best regards,