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Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 12:08 PM
To: postbus@eerstekamer.nl
CC: 5.1.2.e <5.1.2.e@murena.com>
Subject: [Strategic Note] Building a European sovereign mobile OS - Murena & /e/OS, the asset already there

Attachments:

Murena_European_Sovereign_Mobile_OS_Note.pdf

You don't often get email from 5.1.2.e@murena.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Gala Veldhoen,

Europe is rebuilding its digital sovereignty across cloud, AI, chips and identity. The mobile operating system layer - the gateway through which most citizens, public administrations and businesses live their digital lives - has so far been left out of that effort. It should not be.

Europe does not need to invent a sovereign mobile operating system from scratch. It already has one: Murena's /e/OS. Built in Europe, open-source, based on AOSP, running on more than 200 smartphone models, with signed releases, OTA updates, EU-hosted cloud and email services in Finland, more than 85,000 active users, business growing 60% year-over-year, and now profitable. Fairphone already ships it. Public-sector and enterprise customers are already buying it.

The [attached strategic note](#) sets out why scaling this existing European asset is the fastest, most credible path to mobile sovereignty for Europe — and what Europe gains in resilience, economic value capture, jobs, and strategic control by doing so.

What we are asking for is two things, both of which require partners at your level:

1. Open the right doors. Connect us with the colleagues, services and institutions across Europe who are working on the Tech Sovereignty Package, the Cloud and AI Development Act, the open-source strategy, the Competitiveness Fund, public procurement reform, and Member-State sovereignty programmes — so that mobile is properly represented in those files.
2. Help mobilise the capital and partnerships needed to scale. A European mainstream mobile OS at the scale Europe needs is a multi-hundred-million-euro industrial project. Murena has demonstrated, with very limited resources, that the technology and the market exist. What is missing is the industrial-scale capital, the public-private framework, and the distribution partnerships that would let it become a true platform — comparable in ambition to what France and Germany are building together for cloud, and what the EuroStack initiative is calling for across the stack.

We would welcome a conversation, in person or remote, with you or a member of your team, in the coming weeks. We are happy to come to Brussels, Berlin, Paris, or any capital that works.

Thank you for your time and for everything you are doing to give Europe back control of its digital future.

Best regards,

5.1.2.e

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Founder Mandrake Linux 1998 / IPO 2001
Founder /e/OS and Murena 2018



Building a European Sovereign Mobile Operating System

A strategic note on why Murena's /e/OS is Europe's strongest existing starting point

CORE THESIS

Europe does not need to invent a sovereign mobile operating system from scratch. It already has Murena's /e/OS: an operating system, built in Europe, open-source and based on AOSP (Android Open Source Project)", already delivering signed releases and over-the-air (OTA) software updates, and already connected to EU-hosted services.[5][7][8] The strategic question is therefore not whether a European mobile operating system can exist. It is how quickly and effectively Europe can scale the one serious option it already has.

- Murena's /e/OS already combines the elements most new entrants lack: an open-source Android base, signed releases, OTA updates, an app access layer, EU-hosted cloud services, and a route to enterprise and government customers.[7][8][9][10]
- The opportunity is not to reinvent /e/OS. It is to harden, industrialize and scale an existing European asset at the moment Europe most needs it.
- If Europe succeeds, it gains more than privacy: it gains resilience, economic value capture, high-skill jobs, deeper technical sovereignty, and a strategic software asset governed under European law.[1][2][3]

Why this matters now

Europe's dependence on non-European digital infrastructure is no longer an abstract policy concern. Mobile devices are a core computing environment for citizens, companies, public administrations, and critical services. The operating system decides how software is updated, how trust is managed, which services are embedded by default, how app distribution works, and how much of the value chain remains under local control. If Europe does not control that layer, an important part of its digital future remains externally paced.[1][2]

The timing is unusually favorable. The European Commission now frames competitiveness and resilience around reducing excessive dependencies, the Cyber Resilience Act puts secure updates and lifecycle security at the center of software governance, and ENISA's EU Vulnerability Database gives Europe its own operational anchor for vulnerability intelligence.[2][3][4]

Technically, this is also a better moment than it was a few years ago. AOSP remains openly modifiable, and the platform is more modular than it used to be. Recent changes to the kernel and to updatable system components make focused downstream maintenance more manageable than in earlier Android generations.[5][6]

Why Murena's /e/OS is the right starting point

Murena's /e/OS is not a concept. It is already a working operating system with real release engineering, real software updates, real cloud services, real device support, and a real commercial route to market. That matters because the hardest thing to build is not only code. It is the combination of software, operations, support, device relationships, and credibility.[7][8][9]

It is highly differentiated in a smartphone market that has focused for years on hardware specs while leaving the underlying data model largely unchanged. Its privacy benefits are concrete and easy for users to understand: /e/OS shows which apps contain trackers, highlights intrusive permissions, and helps people make informed choices about apps that feed the adtech ecosystem. This matters because Europe's concern is not only abstract "privacy," but the industrialized collection and sharing of personal data at scale (ICCL has documented how real-time bidding can broadcast sensitive personal data widely enough to become both a mass-profiling issue and a strategic security concern [13]). At the same time, /e/OS reduces reliance on Google services and uses a lighter, more controlled service layer, which improves privacy while also reducing attack surface. The result is a smartphone experience that remains familiar and compatible with Android mobile apps, while being materially more transparent, more protective of the user, and far more independent from the dominant data-extraction logic of the mobile market.

Murena's /e/OS already runs on more than 200 smartphone models, supports Android applications, distinguishes between community and official builds, and delivers OTA updates to supported devices. Official builds are signed with Murena's official keys. Murena also operates EU-hosted cloud and email services in Finland and already sells to businesses, non-profits and governments.[7][8][9]

There is also already a visible path from software to hardware. Fairphone publicly sells devices with /e/OS and presents alternative operating systems such as /e/OS as part of its open-source philosophy. This is important: it shows that a European hardware-software path already exists and can be expanded.[11]

Murena's /e/OS now has more than 85.000 regular users and business activity has been growing 60% year over year, reaching profitability.

Murena's B2B expansion potential is significant. For enterprises and public-sector organizations, Murena's /e/OS can evolve from a privacy-oriented operating system into a full sovereign mobility stack: devices, secure updates, cloud services, policy control, private app catalogs, and long-term support under European control. This positions Murena not only for broader adoption, but for higher-value recurring revenue in segments where sovereignty, compliance, and lifecycle control are becoming procurement priorities.

What sovereignty should mean in practice

A realistic European sovereign mobile operating system does not require immediate control over every layer of the global smartphone supply chain. Europe does not yet fully control the deepest hardware layers, including SoCs, modems, baseband firmware, and several critical semiconductor dependencies. The European Chips Act exists precisely because this challenge is real.[12]

But that is not a reason to wait. The highest-leverage sovereignty layers in mobile are already in the software and operations stack: source integration, build, signing, OTA software updates,

security maintenance, trusted services, identity, app distribution, and governance. These are the layers where operational control, resilience, and economic value can be won now.[1][5]

In practical terms, a sovereign European offer based on Murena's /e/OS should mean that an officially supported device can be built, signed, updated, authenticated, secured, and operated without any critical non-European dependency in its normal path. Hardware alignment can deepen over time; software sovereignty can start now.

A practical path for Europe

First, put release, signing and software updates fully under European control. That means mirrored sources, disciplined release engineering, operator-controlled signing keys, over-the-air update infrastructure, incident response, and governance that can continue under European jurisdiction even in adverse geopolitical conditions. Murena already has part of this machinery; the opportunity is to harden it to sovereign level.[5][7]

Second, build an autonomous European security maintenance capability. Murena should progressively be able to identify relevant vulnerabilities, assess exposure, source or develop fixes, test them, sign them, and deploy them on its own timetable — using Google as one useful upstream input where available, but not as the gatekeeper for security decisions. A mobile operating system is not truly sovereign if another jurisdiction still determines the timing or conditions of its security maintenance.[3][4][5]

Third, bring key services and app distribution under European control. Some current dependencies remain, notably around app distribution and some Google-linked compatibility services. Murena's own documentation is transparent about this today. The right response is not to cut users off from the Android world overnight. It is to keep compatibility where it accelerates adoption, while building a European distribution channel for critical apps, enterprise deployments, and public-sector use.[10]

Fourth, scale through trusted devices and institutional demand. The strongest guarantees should first attach to a focused set of official devices sold and supported through trusted partners. At the same time, Murena's broader /e/OS footprint can continue to grow the installed base, improve publisher incentives, and expand the market for sovereign services. This is how adoption and sovereignty can reinforce each other instead of competing.[7][10][11]

What Europe gains

- **Strategic independence on a critical layer of digital life.** Mobile operating systems have become the main entry point to modern digital life. Controlling this layer reduces Europe's dependence on foreign political, legal, and commercial decisions in one of its most sensitive digital domains.
- **A foundation for a stronger European digital industry.** Mastering the mobile OS layer helps Europe build a more complete digital infrastructure chain around software, cloud, identity, cybersecurity, app distribution, and increasingly AI-enabled services delivered through everyday devices.
- **Economical value creation, skills, and jobs in Europe.** A sovereign mobile platform keeps more economic value inside Europe and creates demand for high-skill capabilities in

systems engineering, security, cloud operations, developer tools, enterprise integration, and long-term support.

- **Greater resilience, trust, and alignment with European values.** A mobile platform based in Europe and operated under European control improves continuity, auditability, and security, while making it easier to align the digital experience with European priorities on privacy, transparency, user rights, and open standards.

Conclusion & Call to action

This is not a proposal to create yet another niche operating system. It is a proposal to scale an existing European asset into strategic infrastructure. Murena's /e/OS already gives Europe a rare head start: an open-source mainstream operating system, a service layer hosted in Europe, software updates already in production, and an existing path into devices and institutional markets.

The real question is whether Europe chooses to act on that head start. With the right capital, industrial partnerships, and public support, Murena's /e/OS can become the sovereign mobile operating system Europe has been missing — and a meaningful source of resilience, growth, and technological capability inside Europe.

What Murena has achieved with limited resources already demonstrates something important: Europe does not need to imagine a sovereign mobile operating system in theory. It already has one credible starting point.

Murena is ready to mainstream its technology and expand far beyond its current footprint, across both B2C and B2B markets. This can become one of Europe's most important software and digital infrastructure stories of the coming years.

We invite investors, public institutions, industrial partners, and distribution partners to help scale this existing European asset into a mainstream platform for digital sovereignty on mobile. The opportunity is not only to support Murena's growth, but to help Europe secure a stronger position in one of the most important layers of modern digital life.

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