

Apple beats the EU - for now - and the EU begins to fig...

Published: January 13, 2026, 6:22 am

This tweet was not good news for tax justice campaigners:

<https://twitter.com/EUCourtPress/status/1283326636348379137?s=20>

Ireland has won the right not to tax Apple.

The EU's attempt to beat tax abuse using competition law has failed, at least for now (an appeal is possible, I think).

But the EU has not given up. As the [FT noted a few days ago](#), it is now planning to use a Treaty route (article 116 for the geeks) to overcome the objections of small member states (like Ireland) to the imposition of tax reforms necessary to create a level playing field in the internal market. The critical point is that this does not require unanimous support: qualified majorities will be enough.

I am not pretending this morning is good news. But if a better solution is found maybe that's no bad thing.