

**Question for written answer E-000349/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)

Subject: Digital sovereignty in the EU

Public administrations in EU countries, the EU institutions and European businesses have transferred an increasing number of their information systems and digital services to the cloud. It is estimated that a large number of the cloud services in use in Europe are controlled by US tech companies. Most operating systems have also been purchased from those companies.

This is not just a question of market position or cost-effectiveness, but of the European Union's digital sovereignty. US cloud services companies are bound by US national legislation. This can sometimes put the EU's principles of data protection and legal autonomy at odds with the legislation of a third country.

Cloud services can be used to host functions that are critical for society, such as core public administration information systems, social and healthcare data, and electoral registers. Digital infrastructure is comparable to energy, transport and communications networks, all of which require strategic autonomy.

In the light of the foregoing, I put the following questions to the Commission:

1. Should the EU build common, fully European cloud and data infrastructure that would enable public administration and critical functions to be independent of third-country legislation?
2. Does the Commission have any estimates of how much the EU institutions, EU programmes and the public sector in the Member States pay US cloud services companies each year, and how those cash flows affect Europe's strategic autonomy and industrial competitiveness?
3. What practical steps does the Commission intend to take to develop European cloud services, open technologies and publicly owned or controlled digital infrastructure in order to reduce the EU's dependence on individual non-EU operators?

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