

**Question for written answer E-002764/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Mandatory ceilings for data centre water consumption and impact of AI infrastructure

Under the Energy Efficiency Directive and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1364, data centres are subject to mandatory Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE) reporting. However, data collection does not ensure the preservation of resources. EU law fails to set mandatory maximum consumption ceilings and to prohibit the use of drinking water for cooling in water-stressed regions. Meanwhile, the expansion of AI is exponentially increasing the water footprint due to the high thermal density of new chips. In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following three questions:

1. Does it intend to introduce binding maximum water consumption limits (WUE ceilings) for data centres, going beyond the phase of simply monitoring and reporting?
2. Is it considering banning the use of drinking water for cooling new facilities, obliging operators in vulnerable areas to use only dry, immersion cooling or industrial waste water technologies?
3. How will it review the European sustainability rating scheme to introduce restrictive criteria tailored to the specific water impact of new infrastructure dedicated exclusively to artificial intelligence?

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