

Question for written answer E-003603/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left)

Subject: Data centre concentration in Lombardy: environmental and sustainability risks

The Lombardy Region (Italy) has 250 requests for data centre construction, some of which have already been approved¹. This means that in a confined area there is a record concentration of connection requests to Italy's national grid operator Terna – hitting 46 GW – particularly in the Milan hinterland. This disorderly race, fuelled also by large US groups seeking to pre-empt digital sovereignty rules with these investments, is having a dramatic impact on the ground.

Examples such as Rozzano or Cornaredo highlight unsustainable cumulative effects: NOx emissions from emergency generators, huge water consumption and electricity demand that risks placing a heavy burden on the local grid. Many projects are also said to be cases of pure land speculation².

This growth, including on land with seismic issues, could also compromise the physical resilience for data protection required by the CER and NIS 2 Directives³.

In light of Directive (EU) 2023/1791:

1. How does the Commission intend to monitor – and does it intend to provide recommendations to control – the cumulative impact and energy consumption of these installations so as to protect already environmentally saturated areas?
2. What tools will it use to regulate investments by non-EU groups, in order to prevent the pre-empting of digital sovereignty from resulting in ecological deregulation or property speculation?
3. Do the funds made available by the EU for data centres specifically include environmental and sustainability conditionalities?

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¹ <https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/data-center-italia-e-boom-richieste-rete-terna-48percento-AJUI5Zshttps://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2026/04/11/data-center-milano-lombardia-ambiente-rischi-news/8346933/>.

² <https://www.qualenergia.it/articoli/data-center-terna-82-gw-richieste-tanta-speculazione/>.

³ Directive (EU) 2022/2557 (CER) and Directive (EU) 2022/2555 (NIS 2).