

**Question for written answer E-003875/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Thomas Bajada (S&D)

Subject: Data storage and processing for EU small and medium-sized enterprises

EU digital policy places emphasis on European control over data and reducing dependence on non-EU cloud infrastructure. In particular, the Data Act and the EU's emerging cloud sovereignty framework reflect growing policy emphasis on the protection and, where appropriate, storage and processing of data within the EU.

However, widely used business software, largely supplied by non-EU cloud vendors, often makes storage in the EU a premium feature. Several vendors operate data centres in the EU but restrict their use to enterprise tiers at unpublished prices. On the standard plans which small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can afford, data is stored outside the EU with no options offered. Comparable vendors offer region selection in standard tiers, indicating that this is a commercial choice. For SMEs, storing data in Europe has become a luxury – a sovereignty premium set against expectations EU policy itself creates.

1. Has the Commission assessed the practice of restricting data-residency options within the EU to premium pricing tiers, and its impact on SMEs?
2. Does the Commission consider this practice compatible with the Data Act and the EU's cloud sovereignty agenda?
3. Will the Commission consider requiring that providers operating EU data centres offer region-of-storage choice on standard commercial terms, or at minimum per-tier transparency on where data is stored?

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