

**Question for written answer E-003940/2026  
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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**Subject:** Turn off the lights – Europe needs electricity for its data centres

On 21 September 2026, the Commission announced that the EU aims to triple data centre capacity over the next five to seven years. It acknowledges, however, that this growth will increase electricity consumption and put pressure on the power grid. Data centres in the EU had already consumed around 68 TWh of electricity by 2024, and their consumption is set to almost double by 2030.

A few days later, the Commissioner for Energy and Housing called on Member States to reduce their gas and electricity consumption, citing measures such as limiting the temperature in public buildings or switching off street lighting.

In light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission have enough electricity to triple the capacity of data centres, but not to heat public buildings or power street lighting?
2. Does the Commission consider it a sensible energy policy to plan first for massive growth in energy-intensive data centres and then to recommend that citizens, businesses and Member States reduce their electricity consumption?
3. Does the Commission intend to specify by how much more Europeans must reduce their heating, lighting and consumption so that there remains sufficient electricity to meet its ambition to triple the capacity of data centres?

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