

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000992/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(7 March 2025)

Subject: Competitiveness in the field of artificial intelligence

France is to invest EUR 109 billion in artificial intelligence and hence become a European leader in that field, with the caveat that over-regulation could stifle innovation in Europe. France's plan targets the construction of data centres, developing the production of semiconductors and supporting start-ups. In the meantime, the USA and China continue to dominate the AI race, making huge investments and rapid advances in this sector.

1. Given the investments announced by France and the intensification of global competition in the field of artificial intelligence, what concrete measures will the Commission implement to boost investment and innovation in AI throughout the European Union in order to avoid our falling behind the rest of the world?
2. Is there a coordinated plan, similar to France's initiative, for the development of infrastructure, the start-up ecosystem and semiconductor production across the EU?

Submitted: 7.3.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 May 2025)

Strengthening previous initiatives such as the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence (AI) ⁽¹⁾, on 9 April 2025, the Commission published the AI Continent Action Plan ⁽²⁾ to make Europe a leading AI continent. The Plan will enhance the EU's AI data and computing infrastructures, strengthen skill and talent, and foster AI adoption in science and key sectors. To this aim, the AI in Science and Apply AI Strategy will be crucial. To minimise regulatory burdens, the Plan will also support a smooth implementation of the AI Act that already provides legal certainty across the EU and fosters innovation including via the regulatory sandboxes.

The EU is also engaging in large-scale AI investments. Through the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking, significant funding was mobilised to establish 13 AI factories enhancing the European ecosystem for training advanced generative AI models. Overall, investments in supercomputing infrastructures and AI factories will reach EUR 10 billion between 2021 and 2027. Moreover, the InvestAI initiative ⁽³⁾ will mobilise EUR 20 billion for establishing AI gigafactories, facilities integrating massive computing power to develop large AI models, alongside energy-efficient data centres.

The EU is also continuing its efforts under the EU Chips Act ⁽⁴⁾. Over EUR 80 billion investments were approved or planned in industrial deployment in semiconductors. The EU and Member States are investing close to EUR 4 billion in five semiconductor and quantum pilot lines to move from the laboratory to the fabrication. A European design platform is being developed to support companies in designing advanced AI chips. Building on this, the Commission is working on the revision of the Chips Act to foster investments in the area.

⁽¹⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/coordinated-plan-artificial-intelligence-2021-review>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-sets-course-europes-ai-leadership-ambitious-ai-continent-action-plan>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_467.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-chips-act_en.