

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002131/25
to the Commission
Liesbet Sommen (PPE)
(28 May 2025)**

Subject: Use of US digital platforms in EU projects

For digitalisation projects at EU and Member State level, software from large, non-European tech firms such as Salesforce, Microsoft, Google and Amazon Web Services is still being opted for in many instances. This trend raises questions about the geopolitical context, market access for European players and embedding public values within public procurement.

In view of growing trade tensions between the EU and the US, it is apt to assess to what extent, in terms of digital policy, the EU and its Member States are acting strategically independently. At the same time, there is a need for a framework in which public values such as transparency, reusability of technology and data sovereignty are central and are factored in to procurement procedures.

European start-ups and tech firms that are well established also offer innovative, qualitative alternatives. Greater recognition of their role would strengthen the resilience and strategic autonomy of the European digital economy.

1. Can the Commission provide an overview of recent European digitalisation projects for which US software platforms were chosen and say what the selection criteria were for those choices?
2. As part of procurement procedures, is the availability of high-quality European alternatives systematically looked into? If so, how are they compared with international suppliers?
3. Is the Commission considering incorporating into future procurement rules additional criteria that explicitly factor in strategic autonomy, data sovereignty, transparency and strengthening of the European digital economy?

Submitted: 28.5.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2025)**

The Commission's digital transformation is guided by its Cloud Strategy ⁽¹⁾, prioritizing a secure hybrid multi-cloud approach. This approach is delivered through private cloud infrastructure under full Commission control, ensuring digital autonomy, resilience and mitigating vendor lock-in, with operators awarded via EU-compliant procurement procedures.

Commission contracts have been awarded to different EU-based providers, including providers without corporate ties to the United States and the Commission uses open-source software.

To avoid dependency, 85% of workloads run in the Commission's private cloud. The remaining 15%, managing non-confidential data, are equally distributed among Amazon Web Services EMEA SARL (AWS), Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited, and OVHcloud. Contracts with AWS and Microsoft are valid until 2030 and 2031. The Commission has opted for SAP in its financial system.

Since 2014, cloud and software framework contracts ⁽²⁾ have incorporated award criteria reflecting European digital sovereignty initiatives, like SecNumCloud, resulting in a contract awarded to OVHcloud.

The Commission has recently engaged in the procurement of open-source tools like SIMPL ⁽³⁾. The Single Market Strategy ⁽⁴⁾ reaffirms the Commission's commitment to review the EU public procurement framework, potentially introducing European preference criteria for key technologies and sectors.

The Commission remains committed to leveraging forthcoming legislative instruments to strengthen EU digital sovereignty and foster innovative services.

The Cloud and AI Development Act ⁽⁵⁾ will ensure secure EU-based capacity for critical needs, backed by an EU-wide cloud policy for public administrations and public procurement.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-commission-cloud-strategy_en.

⁽²⁾ For example, Cloud III or SIDE III.

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/simpl>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0500> (presented on 21 May 2025).

⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ai-continent-action-plan>.