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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.8.2025)

On 9 April 2025, the Commission adopted the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Continent Action Plan¹, which announces a Cloud and AI Development Act (CADA). One of the objectives of the Act is to facilitate private investment in sustainable cloud and AI capacity, to triple the EU's data processing capacity in the next 5 to 7 years, thus ensuring that, by 2035, the EU is equipped with sufficient data processing capacity to meet the needs of its businesses and public administrations. To gather stakeholder views on these initiatives, the Commission held a public consultation between the 09 April and 03 July 2025.

Adding new data centres to the grid presents important challenges, notably in terms of potential impacts on consumption, other energy consumers, networks and decarbonisation. The Strategic Roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector will propose measures to facilitate the sustainable integration of data centres into the energy system and address other energy-related issues resulting from the large-scale deployment of data centres in the EU. Published together with the Strategic Roadmap, the Data Centre Energy Efficiency Package will continue the work foreseen in the Energy Efficiency Directive by introducing a rating scheme for the energy efficiency of data centres. This aims to increase transparency and promote the most sustainable practices in the industry.

Looking ahead, the Commission aims to strengthen a competitive EU cloud industry and recognizes the significant untapped potential in the sector. Through the CADA, the Commission aims to mobilise the cloud industry, both in terms of infrastructure and services.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ai-continent-action-plan>.