

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003657/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)
(22 September 2025)**

Subject: Strategic support for Mistral AI, a key player in European technological sovereignty

Mistral AI, a French start-up company founded in 2023, is becoming one of the driving forces in artificial intelligence (AI) in Europe. This is demonstrated by its recent fundraising activity, which saw Dutch tech giant ASML become a shareholder. Mistral develops state-of-the-art language models and is already collaborating with major industrial companies.

What distinguishes Mistral is its aim to offer a real European alternative to American and Chinese solutions, while also respecting our standards. This is exactly what the EU says it wants to encourage.

And yet... to date, there has been no concrete, structured or significant support from the Commission. Once again, the stated ambitions are not being translated into action.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that Mistral AI is a strategic actor for the EU's digital autonomy?
2. What practical steps does it plan to take to help Member States develop businesses like this without them falling under non-European control and without stifling them?
3. What view does the Commission take of a Member State creating a sovereign fund specialising in AI in order to finance strategic start-ups, infrastructure and research projects?

Submitted: 22.9.2025

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

The Commission supports artificial intelligence (AI) innovation in Europe and has adopted several initiatives to support the development and scaling of AI startups in Europe.

In April 2025, the AI Continent Action Plan ⁽¹⁾ was adopted. It links different AI initiatives relating to data, skills and infrastructure such as the financial support of the AI Factories ⁽²⁾ and upcoming AI Gigafactories ⁽³⁾, which are accessible to European AI startups.

At the same time, the Commission organised a high-level round table on AI innovation where representatives of several AI startups, including Mistral AI, participated.

Furthermore, the European Innovation Council and the GenAI4EU ⁽⁴⁾ initiative provide various funding programs; and under the InvestEU programme ⁽⁵⁾, the EU is de-risking investments and financing operations by Financial Institutions and National Promotional Banks into European AI start-ups ⁽⁶⁾.

In May 2025, the Commission adopted the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy ⁽⁷⁾ which further supports European AI startups and scaleups, including by facilitating access to venture capital and growth funding ⁽⁸⁾.

The strategy includes the Scaleup Europe Fund, which will mobilise significant private funds and make direct equity investments in strategic sectors.

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

⁽²⁾ https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/ai-factories_en.

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

⁽⁴⁾ The GenAI4EU initiative supports bringing transformative AI-driven solutions to the market and under the Digital Europe Programme, the Commission called for proposals to fund scalable generative AI pilot projects for public administrations based on European AI models. https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-accelerator/eic-accelerator-challenges-2025/genai4eu-creating-european-champions-generative-ai_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-and-europe-fit-digital-age_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy_en.

⁽⁸⁾ The key actions in this area include the deployment of the Scaleup Europe Fund, the expansion and simplification of the European Innovation Council (EIC), and the development of the European Innovation Investment Pact.

In this regard, Member States have full autonomy. The Commission welcomes similar national initiatives to fund critical technologies, infrastructures and research that contribute to Europe's technological sovereignty respecting the EU rules and a level playing field.
