

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004334/25
to the Commission
Virginie Joron (PFE)
(4 November 2025)**

Subject: The Commission is introducing a framework for a sovereign — but not European — cloud

The Commission has introduced its Cloud Sovereignty Framework for public authorities ⁽¹⁾, which establishes a ‘sovereignty score’ based on several criteria: legal exposure to foreign authorities, operational sovereignty and supply chain control.

However, this framework has provoked strong criticism from European cloud providers ⁽²⁾, who state that the proposed score ‘moves even further from transparency and leaves ample room to hide inconvenient truths’ ⁽³⁾. Some also believe that it could place European players at a disadvantage vis-à-vis their competitors — particularly American ones — who could score higher despite the fact that they are subject to the laws of a jurisdiction outside the EU.

1. Does the Commission intend to review the framework so as to address European providers’ concerns?
2. Does it intend to require compliance with Gaia-X Level 3 to ensure a truly sovereign cloud?
3. Can it guarantee that the framework will not be used for the data hub of the EU customs authority?

Submitted: 4.11.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(8 January 2026)**

The European Cloud Sovereignty Framework ⁽¹⁾ in its published form summarises the criteria by which cloud solutions will be evaluated in the ongoing competition for Sovereign Cloud under the ‘Cloud III’ Dynamic Purchasing System. Access to the detailed specifications is limited to the participants of that competition pursuant to applicable procurement rules.

As the document explains in its first paragraph, the Sovereignty Objectives were drafted with a direct view of the different European initiatives and frameworks, including Gaia-X policy rules and architecture. At the same time, applicable law concerning access to EU public contracts is respected.

Furthermore, while each Sovereignty Objective counts towards a global ‘Sovereignty Score’, a cloud solution must also achieve a certain minimum threshold in each objective. Insufficient performance in one objective cannot simply be compensated by higher scores in others.

The Sovereignty Framework is an evaluation model for a concrete procurement procedure. The criteria used in this competition do not introduce a binding definition of ‘sovereign cloud’ that would restrict or pre-empt other definitions in different contexts of legislation, policy or others.

The purpose of this competition is to make available particularly secure and resilient cloud services to the Commission and other institutions. Which precise system would be deployed on the sovereign cloud services is not subject of this competition and remains the decision of the department in charge of that system.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/09579818-64a6-4dd5-9577-446ab6219113_en.

² <https://www.cispe.cloud/no-such-thing-as-75-organic/>.

³ Ibid.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/09579818-64a6-4dd5-9577-446ab6219113_en.