

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005052/25
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(22 December 2025)**

Subject: ‘Sovereign cloud’ and future framework for the cloud services market in the EU

In recent weeks, Member States have once again been discussing establishing common criteria for a ‘sovereign cloud’, highlighting the need to reduce the European Union’s strategic dependencies in digital infrastructure.

This discussion coincides with the announcement of the Commission’s 2026 ‘Cloud and AI Development Act’ legislative initiative, which is expected to significantly affect the functioning of the cloud services market in the EU.

Although strengthening the EU’s data security is a legitimate objective, this cannot lead to creating administrative barriers or to limiting the open and competitive nature of the internal market.

Solutions that would in practice artificially narrow the choice of suppliers or favour certain business models regardless of their market efficiency should also be avoided.

It is essential that future regulation empower EU companies by facilitating growth and investment rather than protecting them from international competition.

In this context, I ask the following questions:

1. Does the Commission intend to propose a legal definition of ‘sovereign cloud’ that does not undermine the principles of the open market and competitiveness?
2. How will the Commission ensure that the new rules do not unduly restrict access to cloud services for businesses and public administrations?
3. How will the Commission reconcile the objectives of digital resilience with the need to maintain the EU’s capacity to attract investment on a global scale?

Submitted: 22.12.2025

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

The Commission is committed to enhancing Europe’s sovereignty and security as well as strengthening its competitiveness. These are key priorities set in the AI Continent Action plan and underpinning the upcoming Cloud and AI Development Act ⁽¹⁾.

Recognising the critical position of cloud technologies in the European digital environment, we are aiming to provide the right regulatory conditions for the development of sovereign cloud and AI computing services in the EU.

The Cloud and AI Development Act will foster the use of cloud computing in the EU, in particular for public administrations, and address the issue of having various diverging definitions of sovereign cloud across the EU, which affects the internal market. This will not only uphold Europeans’ rights but also increase Europe’s competitiveness and build its digital infrastructure.

The internal market remains open to all companies regardless of whether they are EU-based or not as long as they comply with EU law, thus respecting the rights of Europeans.

For highly critical use cases, including for certain AI applications, sovereignty and operational autonomy require highly secure EU-based cloud capacity.

The upcoming Cloud and AI Development Act is expected to ensure that the public and private sector in the EU can rely on such capacity for these use cases, thus laying the basis for the public sector to adopt AI in an environment of trust.

More generally, leveraging the existing provisions on cloud switching, the Cloud and AI Development Act will look into fostering the right regulatory conditions for building EU cloud capacity and services.

⁽¹⁾ The AI Continent Action Plan | Shaping Europe’s digital future.