

EN

E-000349/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(23.3.2026)

The Commission will present a proposal for a Cloud and AI Development Act. This will facilitate the development and adoption of European cloud and AI technologies, especially in the public sector, thus addressing the risks stemming from the EU's reliance on third countries.

The Act will promote the development of the EU cloud and AI offer by driving investment and simplifying permitting procedures, with the aim of tripling EU data centre capacity by 2030 and bringing it to a level that matches its needs by 2035. The Act will provide a harmonised definition of sovereign cloud and AI computing services and criteria for the public sector to procure secure and sovereign services for the most critical use cases.

The intervention rationale is based on the report 'The future of European competitiveness', which estimates the European infrastructure investment gap to be around EUR 75 billion until 2030 and around 70% of the European cloud and AI market is dominated by US hyperscalers. These figures illustrate the EU's reliance on third countries for cloud and AI computing services and the risks to its strategic autonomy and industrial competitiveness. Leading by example, the Commission launched in 2025 a EUR 180 million tender for the provision of sovereign cloud services.

There are no global figures on how much the EU institutions, EU programmes or the national public sector pay for US cloud services companies, but in 2025, EU institutions, bodies and agencies spent EUR 87 million on public cloud services.