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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Competitiveness Fund does not favour any specific technology or provider. In line with the Apply AI Strategy¹, the Commission supports the uptake of trustworthy AI, fostering innovation while mitigating risks and strengthening Europe's technological sovereignty. This aligns with the Data Union Strategy², which aims to scale up access to high-quality data for AI and innovation, and safeguard the EU data sovereignty to strengthen the global position on international data flows.

In the field of health, the Commission promotes secure and interoperable access to health data, notably through the European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation³. The EHDS establishes a common framework for the exchange and use of electronic health data across the EU. It strengthens individuals' access to and control over their personal electronic health data while enabling the reuse of certain data for public interest purposes, policy-making and scientific research, subject to strict conditions and safeguards.

Regarding Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU⁴, the Commission fully respects Member States' competences for the organisation and delivery of health services. EU action focuses on supporting cooperation and facilitating cross-border data exchange, including through MyHealth@EU⁵. Democratic accountability is ensured through EU legislation adopted by the co-legislators and through established oversight mechanisms.

Both the EHDS Regulation and General Data Protection Regulation⁶ provide strict safeguards governing access to and use of health data, helping prevent misuse or inappropriate commercial exploitation.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Apply AI Strategy, COM(2025) 723 final.

² COM/2025/835 final.

³ Regulation (EU) 2025/327 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2025 on the European Health Data Space and amending Directive 2011/24/EU and Regulation (EU) 2024/2847, *OJ L*, 2025/327, 5.3.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/327/oj>.

⁴ OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, pp. 47–390; ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2012/oj.

⁵ https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/digital-health-and-care/electronic-cross-border-health-services_en.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC, *OJ L* 119 4.5.2016, p. 1.