

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001238/26
to the Commission
Peter Agius (PPE)
(25 March 2026)**

Subject: Rising memory component costs and spillover risks for consumer devices

Reports indicate sharp increases in memory (DRAM/HBM) prices and supply tightness, driven by AI-related demand, with expectations of strong demand into 2027. If these constraints persist, consumers may face higher prices not only for gaming computers but also for laptops, smartphones and other essential devices. This may also slow the deployment of EU AI infrastructure, weakening the EU's digital competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

1. How is the Commission monitoring DRAM/HBM supply and prices, and will it use the early warning indicators under Pillar 3 of the EU Chips Act to flag shortages and price-shock risks for downstream users in the EU?
2. In the light of potential impacts on the critical sectors listed in Annex IV to the Chips Act, is the Commission considering activating a 'crisis stage' under Article 23 of this Act and, if so, what criteria would trigger such activation?
3. Has the Commission assessed whether long-term supply arrangements or allocation practices could exacerbate scarcity or price pressure for non-AI buyers in the EU, and what concrete mitigation measures is it considering (including targeted competition monitoring and measures to strengthen EU capacity in the memory ecosystem), including in the context of any future revision of the Chips Act?

Supporters ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 25.3.2026

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

In the context of Pillar 3 of the EU Chips Act ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is monitoring the supply of memory chips, including prices and lead times, via regular expert reports. Early warning indicators may be used to flag shortages and price-shock risks to the Member States authorities represented in the European Semiconductor Board.

Under Article 23 of the Chips Act, the activation of the 'crisis stage' is a prerogative of the Council. The Commission may, after consulting the European Semiconductor Board, propose to the Council the activation of a crisis.

This would require evidence of serious disruptions of the supply chain affecting essential products used by critical sectors as defined in Annex IV, and evidence that the activation of the crisis stage would have a positive impact. At the moment this is not the case.

The Commission has not specifically assessed whether long-term supply arrangements may have an influence on shortage of supply or pricing. The Commission welcomes proactive action from industry to manage risks of supply disruptions through commercial practices.

Investment decisions under the Chips Act framework lie primarily with companies and Member States, and any public support must comply with EU competition and state aid rules.

The Commission already supports, through open, competitive calls, research and innovation in embedded and specialty memories, which can serve important EU end-markets such as automotive, industrial and edge applications.

The Commission recognises the strategic importance of strengthening EU capabilities in the memory ecosystem and is considering how to further reinforce this aspect in the context of the forthcoming revision of the Chips Act.

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the author: Regina Doherty (PPE), Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE).

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1781/oj>.