

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001950/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(12 May 2026)

Subject: Impact of EU digital regulation on competitiveness and achieving digital sovereignty

The EU's digital regulatory framework is increasingly acting as a barrier to capital and innovation, undermining the Union's competitiveness. At the same time, the Commission stresses the need to build 'digital sovereignty' given the risks associated with depending on external technologies, especially in the context of China's growing role and geopolitical tensions.

It is undeniable that certain threats — particularly those linked to countries with different regulatory and democratic standards — need to be addressed. However, the answer is not further expanding internal regulations or limiting access to global services, but instead building strong technology partnerships with countries that share our democratic values and creating conditions conducive to innovative development in Europe.

The Commission's current rhetoric appears to focus on external factors to explain the weakness of the EU's tech sector, despite the fact that complex and rigid EU regulations, often introduced under the guise of user protection, also significantly contribute to this weakness.

I therefore ask:

1. How does the Commission justify its emphasis on external threats while failing to reflect on the impact of its own regulations on the outflow of investment and innovation from the Union?
2. What guarantees are there that the concept of 'digital sovereignty' will be implemented by strengthening cooperation with countries with similar values, rather than by further restricting access to services and technologies in the internal market?
3. Is the Commission planning a comprehensive review of the existing digital regulations with a view to simplifying them and creating a more favourable environment for European tech companies?

Submitted: 12.5.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(22 July 2026)

The EU cannot be technologically dependent of countries with fundamentally misaligned standards and values, which may translate into products and services used by EU citizens and businesses. Such dependencies pose a potential risk to EU citizens.

The Technological Sovereignty Package ⁽¹⁾ addresses this, focusing on semiconductors, cloud and AI development, open-source solutions and sustainable energy usage.

It aims to reduce critical dependencies and strengthening Europe's capacity to act — while staying open and engaged with the world, in line with the International Digital Strategy for the EU ⁽²⁾. Supply chains, standards, security and innovation are global and interconnected. They need market openness and international cooperation.

The Commission is also assessing the EU's own digital rulebook very seriously. In 2025, it put forward two Omnibus legislative proposals ⁽³⁾, addressing the areas that affect digital competitiveness the most: AI and data, and cybersecurity.

Overall, the proposals are jointly expected to cut at least EUR 5 billion of administrative costs for enterprises by 2029, spurring innovation. Additionally, proposals such as the EU Business Wallets ⁽⁴⁾ or the Digital Networks Act ⁽⁵⁾ have simplification as a core dimension.

⁽¹⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-tech-sovereignty>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/joint-communication-international-digital-strategy-eu>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2718.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/business-wallets>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-networks-act>.

The Commission is now working on a Digital Fitness Check ⁽⁶⁾, an analysis of the cumulative effect of digital regulation. This further complements the individual evaluations already completed or planned under the current mandate, such as those of the Digital Markets Act ⁽⁷⁾ and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive ⁽⁸⁾ in 2026.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15554-Digital-fitness-check-testing-the-cumulative-impact-of-the-EUs-digital-rules>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_914.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/revision-avmsd>.