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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Union is the first to introduce comprehensive legislation on the energy performance and efficiency of data centres. The EU legislative framework, notably the Energy Efficiency Directive[1] and its Delegated Act[2] increase transparency significantly in this area. As the report to the European Parliament and the Council on the energy efficiency of data centres in the EU shows that, while data centres in the EU are becoming more sustainable, there is enormous potential for further improvements, especially as part of a better integration with the energy system. The report will be published soon.

Since the Commission is assessing the transposition and implementation of the Energy efficiency Directive, including Article 12 and Annex VII, reporting compliance is expected to improve in next cycles as operators adapt to regulatory requirements and benefit from Commission guidance[3].

Furthermore, the Commission supplements reported data with technical studies[4,5], stakeholder consultations, including with Member States, and expert validation. Before possibly proposing any minimum performance standards, the Commission will launch a call for evidence and an open public consultation, followed by an impact assessment.

Halting the discussion on possible minimum performance standards when the Commission expects that most of the data centre capacity that will be on the ground in the next 20 years will be designed and be constructed in the next five to seven years, would risk delaying progress toward a sustainable and competitive EU data centre sector.

[1] Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast): http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj.
[2] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1364 of 14 March 2024 on the first phase of the establishment of a common Union rating scheme for data centres: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/1364/oj.
[3] https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-targets-directive-and-rules/energy-efficiency-directive/energy-performance-data-centres_en#a-data-base-for-reporting.
[4] Technical Assistance in support of implementing Article 12(5) of Directive 2023/1791 on the energy performance and sustainability of data centres, https://www.borderstep.org/projekte/eudcear/.
[5] https://energy.ec.europa.eu/resources/preparatory-studies/minimum-performance-standards-eu-data-centres_en.