

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002386/26
to the Commission
Ioan-Rareş Bogdan (PPE)
(10 June 2026)

Subject: Digital sovereignty stress test: Who will foot the bill for the EU's technological ambitions?

The European Technological Sovereignty Package acknowledges major dependence, with the EU spending EUR 264 billion a year on third-party software and cloud products, and proposes that data centre capacity be trebled. At the same time, the objectives of the *Cloud and AI Development Act* and the *Chips Act 2.0* put huge financial and logistical pressure on the Member States.

1. Through which financial mechanisms will the Commission support startups and local authorities in redirecting part of the EUR 264 billion to the European *open-source* ecosystem, preventing the funds from being absorbed once again by large international integrators?
2. How will the Commission ensure the fair distribution and EU co-financing of the massive costs of modernising national electricity grids, given the logistical burden that the trebling of data centre capacity will place on the Member States?
3. How will the Commission reconcile the implementation of the 'cloud and AI sovereignty assessment framework' with the promise to keep the market open to like-minded partners without creating operational bottlenecks or major compliance costs for EU SMEs?

Submitted: 10.6.2026

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

Strengthening tech sovereignty requires sustained financial funding. Discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 are ongoing, including on funding EU competitiveness through instruments like the future European Competitiveness Fund ⁽¹⁾.

Procurement promoting open standards and reusable solutions can also help local authorities buy from Europe's open-source ecosystem and reduce reliance on large international providers ⁽²⁾.

The European Parliament has a key role in achieving this ambition, notably in the MFF and Tech Sovereignty Package ⁽³⁾ negotiations.

Increased data centre (DC) capacity will require major grid investments. To increase grid capacity in a cost-effective manner, the Commission has taken action including through the Grids Action Plan ⁽⁴⁾, the European Grids package ⁽⁵⁾ and the Connecting Europe Facility ⁽⁶⁾ to make better use of existing infrastructure, reinforce cross-border coordination and cross-sectoral planning, and accelerate permit-granting procedures and access to funding.

In addition, the proposal to future-proof electricity bills ⁽⁷⁾ aims to lower electricity costs through efficient network charges and smart electricity grid and network access.

The sovereignty framework under the proposed Cloud and AI Development Act ⁽⁸⁾ is risk-based and proportionate, with requirements increasing where justified by the sensitivity of the service.

Under the proposal, procurement of cloud and AI services remains open to like-minded partners that meet security, transparency and control requirements.

A single EU framework is expected to reduce fragmentation, costs and bottlenecks. Small and medium-sized enterprises would benefit from simpler procedures and improved access to public procurement for cloud services.

⁽¹⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/access-finance/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

⁽²⁾ Commission communication of 3 June 2026. *European Technological Sovereignty Package: Building Europe's Digital Future*, including the EU Open Source Strategy (COM (2026) 503 final).

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-tech-sovereignty>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52023DC0757>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2945.

⁽⁶⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026PC0600&qid=1784719441095>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/proposal-cloud-and-ai-development-act-cada>.