

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002448/26
to the Commission**

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(15 June 2026)

Subject: Nuclear power and data centres

On 3 June 2026, the Commission presented the EU's Cloud and AI Development Act, which aims to triple the EU's data centre capacity. Article 4(1)(e) explicitly identifies small modular reactors as an energy source to power these facilities.

Meanwhile, Article 11 requires that data centres deployed in acceleration zones apply the performance indicators specified in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1364. These include the renewable energy factor, which puts facilities powered by nuclear energy at a disadvantage, despite them being carbon-free.

On 26 May 2026, ten Member States, including France, wrote to the Commission condemning this departure from the principle of technological neutrality and demanding that nuclear power be recognised as sustainable in the same way as solar and wind power.

1. How does the Commission justify promoting nuclear power to supply data centres in Article 4 of the EU's Cloud and AI Development Act, while including indicators in Article 11 which specifically penalise data centres powered by that same energy source?
2. Does the Commission intend to recognise nuclear power as a sustainable energy source in future labelling of data centres, in line with the principle of technological neutrality and the request of the ten Member States that signed the letter of 26 May 2026?

Submitted: 15.6.2026

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

The data centre rating scheme was developed based on the reporting obligations for data centres under the Energy Efficiency Directive ⁽¹⁾. Following the open public consultation on the draft act, the Commission is considering the feedback received from Member States and stakeholders to include the use of nuclear power in the labelling of data centres, in line with the principle of technological neutrality.

Article 4 of the proposed Cloud and AI Development Act ⁽²⁾ lays down the proposed operational objectives of the Cloud and AI Leadership Initiatives. Article 4(1)(e) of the proposal recognises small modular reactors (SMRs) as one possible energy source for data centres in that context.

Separately, Article 11(1) of the proposal only refers to letters (a) to (n) and does not reference the metrics that concern renewable energy consumption (letters (o) to (r)), which preserves technological neutrality when sustainability requirements are established for data centres in acceleration zones. This approach enables competent authorities to assess projects based on their overall energy performance rather than favouring specific energy generation technologies. Therefore, Article 11 does not penalise data centres powered by SMRs or nuclear in general.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/proposal-cloud-and-ai-development-act-cada>.