

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002465/26
to the Commission
Bruno Tobback (S&D)
(16 June 2026)

Subject: Volkswagen Group prevents users from accessing free, real-time charging data from their electric cars

Since 27 May 2026, Volkswagen Group has been making it impossible for VW owners/users to retrieve recharging data from their electric car in real time and free of charge. Volkswagen is said to be invoking cybersecurity as a reason for blocking the data. However, Volkswagen Group offers the same data for a fee. On eu-data-act.drivesomethinggreater.com, Volkswagen provides the owner only with a limited amount of data, and with a delay; this is therefore not an equivalent alternative.

This is not in line with the EU Data Act, which requires that data must be made available to users and/or a third-party service provider of their choice easily, securely, free of charge, continuously and in real time, with the same quality as the data available to the data holder.

Not only does this change by Volkswagen Group prevent owners from accessing their own data free of charge and in real time, it also hinders the development and use of tools designed to utilise this data to devise optimal charging scenarios that benefit individual users, the efficient use of renewable energy and the stability of the electricity grid.

1. Is the Commission aware of this practice by Volkswagen Group?
2. Does it consider it to be in breach of Regulation (EU) 2023/2854 (Data Act)?
3. If so, what action will the Commission take to monitor and enforce the correct application of the EU Data Act and to address the potential infringement?

Submitted: 16.6.2026

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

The Commission is aware of reports on changes in Volkswagen's method of disseminating to users relevant information about their electric vehicle, namely about the state of charge of the battery.

The Data Act ⁽¹⁾ ('DA') allows manufacturers to use different technical means to make available data in scope.

Where the Data Act requires continuous and real-time data access, the technical means should enable this. While access is free of charge for users, reasonable compensation may be asked from third parties.

Specifically for electric vehicles, Art. 20a ⁽²⁾ of the Renewable Energy Directive ⁽³⁾ ('RED') obliges Member States to require that vehicle manufacturers make available the data points in question in real time, under non-discriminatory terms and at no cost, in accordance with the data protection rules.

Commission guidance ⁽⁴⁾ provides helpful input to Member States in how to implement the provision. The transposition check of the rules under RED is ongoing, with several Member States having already fully transposed that provision.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, the monitoring and enforcement of EU law lies primarily with the competent national authorities and courts.

Under the DA, users of electric vehicles can enforce their rights directly against the data holder before the national courts, in line with national procedural rules.

In addition, natural and legal persons have the right to lodge a complaint with a national competent authority, if they consider their rights under the DA have been infringed.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/2854 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2023 on harmonised rules on fair access to and use of data and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive (EU) 2020/1828 (Data Act), OJ L, 2023/2854 of 22.12.2023.

⁽²⁾ Article 20a(3), second subparagraph RED: 'Member States shall adopt measures to require that vehicle manufacturers make available, in real-time, in-vehicle data related to the battery state of health, battery state of charge, battery power set point, battery capacity, and, where appropriate, the location of electric vehicles, to electric vehicle owners and users, as well as to third parties acting on the owners' and users' behalf, such as electricity market participants and electromobility service providers, under non-discriminatory terms and at no cost, in accordance with the data protection rules, and in addition to further requirements with regard to type approval and market surveillance laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council'.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, OJ L, 328/82 of 21.12.2018, as amended by Directive (EU) 2023/2413.

⁽⁴⁾ Commission notice on the application of requirements for battery-related data sharing under the revised Renewable Energy Directive, OJ C, 2025/4104 of 25.07.2025.

Given the relevance of the continuous availability of battery data in the context of the transition towards a greater use of renewable energy resources, the Commission will closely monitor the situation and interact with relevant competent authorities.
