

EN

E-002764/2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2026)

The Commission, based on the Energy Efficiency Directive¹, will introduce a rating scheme for data centres², in the form of a label showcasing the energy efficiency and sustainability performance of facilities. With the Electrification Action Plan³, the Commission announced to introduce minimum performance standards for data centres⁴, to ensure that new or retrofitted facilities meet sustainability criteria, including on water consumption. In this framework, it should be recalled that the Water Framework Directive⁵ requires Member States to protect and, where necessary, restore water bodies to reach good status, and prevent deterioration.

Replying to the specific questions of the Honourable Member:

1. At this stage, the Commission cannot prejudge whether minimum performance standards for data centres, would take the form of binding maximum water-use ceilings.
2. As regards the use of drinking water, the Commission recognises that water stress varies significantly across regions. The forthcoming rating scheme (label) is intended to provide easily comparable information on freshwater consumption, while allowing competent local and regional authorities to set context-specific requirements or thresholds considering local water availability and use.
3. The Commission intends to propose an early review clause for the features of the data centre label to ensure that implementation results, and environmental, technological and market developments can be reflected, if necessary.

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 https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/rating-scheme-data-centres-eu-commission-launches-call-feedback-2026-03-27_en.

³ COM/2026/595 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0595>

⁴ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-targets-directive-and-rules/energy-efficiency-directive/energy-performance-data-centres_en#next-steps.

⁵ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive_en.