

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002781/26
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(3 July 2026)**

Subject: Revision of the data centre sustainability rating system

According to recent news reports ⁽¹⁾, the ongoing revision of the delegated act on the sustainability rating of data centres drastically reduces the sustainability criteria required from operators.

The Commission seems prepared to yield to the requests of Big Tech, with new reporting requirements that do not cut actual emissions and remove incentives to acquire additional renewable energy. This poses a risk to Europe's energy security, price affordability and climate goals by allowing dependence on fossil fuels rather than encouraging new local renewable energy production.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission ensure that the final text includes criteria that reflect the actual sustainability of a data centre with conditions requiring additional renewable sources and for production to be made nearby and at the right time for demand, rather than allowing emissions to be offset?
2. How will the Commission ensure that revision of the delegated act does not compromise energy security, affordability for consumers or binding EU climate targets?
3. Has the Commission carried out an assessment to ensure that the new rating system will prevent against the risk of increased marginal generation at peak times using natural gas as a result of the higher electricity demand from data centres?

Submitted: 3.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2026)**

The upcoming rating scheme for data centres has been developed based on the reporting obligations established in line with the Energy Efficiency Directive ⁽¹⁾.

It intends to address the need for data centres to better substantiate claims that their energy use is 'green' or 'carbon-neutral', including by linking clean energy production more closely to the physical location and timing of data centre consumption, while avoiding undue market distortions, respecting technology neutrality, and overall promoting clean energy generation and smarter energy uses.

Following the public consultation, the Commission is carefully assessing the feedback received, including on this matter, and will ensure that the final text does not compromise the Union's objectives of competitiveness, energy security, affordability and decarbonisation.

In addition, the Commission will consider an early review clause to ensure that implementation results, and environmental, technological and market developments can be addressed, if necessary.

Concerning increased marginal generation at peak times, the rating scheme does not rule on how electricity is generated and priced, and does not promote electricity generation using natural gas, but rather new clean energy generation capacity and smarter energy uses.

¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/21358a9a-b93b-443c-8a68-6fed89c8b3a6?sharetype=blocked&syn-25a6b1a6=1>.

⁽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).