

EN

E-002963/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.9.2026)

The Commission is committed to strengthening the development of European AI models. Through the AI Continent Action Plan¹ and the InvestAI initiative², it supports European AI developers and the infrastructure they require. Recently, it launched a call for tenders for AI Gigafactories, supported by up to EUR 10 billion in public funding and expected to unlock at least EUR 20 billion in private investment for developing advanced AI models on European infrastructure³. The European Frontier AI Initiative complements these efforts to enhance the Union's competitiveness, sovereignty and security in frontier AI.

The Cloud and AI Development Act (CADA)⁴, proposed by the Commission as part of the Tech Sovereignty package⁵, promotes sovereign services and EU added value. It obliges contracting authorities to include criteria in the procurement of cloud computing services and AI systems rewarding local innovation and supply chain resilience. Furthermore, CADA introduces a single EU-wide sovereignty framework for cloud computing services based on four assurance levels. Highly critical public sector activities will have to rely on the suitable assurance levels. The highest assurance levels are easier to attain for EU AI providers as it is more straightforward for them to demonstrate conformity with several of the sovereignty requirements, notably the absence of third-country influence.

Every EU assurance level under the CADA proposal requires customer data to in principle remain exclusively within the EU. This requirement applies to all cloud computing services supplied to public sector bodies.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ai-continent-action-plan>.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_467.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1708.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/proposal-cloud-and-ai-development-act-cada>.

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/communication-european-tech-sovereignty-accompanied-eu-open-source-strategy>.