

EN

E-002990/2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.10.2026)

As stated in its reply to Question E-004535/2025¹, the Commission is aware of the impacts of AI and stays committed to addressing them to reach its 2050 climate neutrality objective. It will continue to assess future developments considering the available evidence. In the last six months, the available evidence has not changed the previous estimations.

Digital growth and high sustainability standards can mutually reinforce each other. If well integrated in the energy system, AI can contribute to reducing emissions and energy system costs, by optimising energy system efficiency, integration and flexibility, and data centres can actively contribute to the clean energy transition by supporting, among others, renewable energy deployment and waste heat recovery. To start tackling the challenges the expansion of data centres entails for the energy system, the EU has already introduced a reporting scheme² to collect and assess the energy and sustainability performance of data centres. In addition, the Commission has recently proposed a Union rating scheme, a label³, and has launched a public consultation on minimum performance standards⁴. These initiatives are closely interrelated with the proposal for a Cloud and AI Development Act⁵, which promotes the deployment of data centres adhering to high environmental and energy efficiency standards by mandating Member States to include such standards in their national cloud and AI strategies and incentivizes the data centre sector to transition to a clean energy system including through on-site generation and storage of clean energy. These initiatives aim to ensure that growth in AI and cloud services is not only possible, but sustainable.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004535-ASW_EN.html.

² [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=PI_COM:C\(2024\)1639](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=PI_COM:C(2024)1639).

³ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/commission-delegated-regulation-establishing-common-union-rating-scheme-data-centres-and-annexes_en.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/19293-Data-centres-in-Europe-minimum-performance-standards_en.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026PC0502>.