

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003020/26
to the Commission
Fernand Kartheiser (NI)
(16 July 2026)**

Subject: Imports of microchips that are vital for AI development

In January 2025, the US decided to restrict its exports of microchips that are essential for AI development. The decision applied to a number of countries, including Luxembourg, Poland and Portugal, and is therefore having an adverse effect on the smooth functioning of the internal market. It looks likely that similar decisions will be taken against Spain, for political reasons.

1. How does the Commission respond to such decisions with a view to safeguarding the internal market and the interests of all the Member States, and what is the current state of play regarding microchips?
2. What stage is the EU at both industrially (investment in microchips, and manufacturing facilities in particular) and with regard to legislation (implementation of the Chips Act)?
3. How is the Commission intending to secure Europe's supply of the rare earths that are vital in this area, in particular germanium and gallium?

Submitted: 16.7.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 September 2026)**

The Commission engaged with the US at political and technical levels on the US AI Diffusion Rule ⁽¹⁾ and, more broadly, the EU's exposure to third-country measures affecting access to advanced semiconductors and AI technologies.

Following the rescission of the Rule in May 2025, the Commission continues to monitor broader challenges in this area. The Commission is taking actions to reduce strategic dependencies, strengthen industrial capacity, and address distortions through policy actions such as those under the Economic Security Strategy ⁽²⁾ and the Foreign Subsidies Regulation ⁽³⁾.

The Chips Act ⁽⁴⁾ has been successful and has delivered concrete results such as over EUR 52 billion in public and private investments across the semiconductor value chain.

To date, 18 State aid measures to support manufacturing capacity have been approved. The EU has launched five pilot lines to support the development and industrial deployment of next-generation chips.

Competence centres have been established in all Member States to give companies access to expertise, training, testing and experimentation facilities.

The Commission has recently proposed the Chips Act 2.0 ⁽⁵⁾ to further strengthen the EU's semiconductor ecosystem, notably by reinforcing design capabilities and expanding capacities for mature and advanced semiconductors.

The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) ⁽⁶⁾ sets 2030 benchmarks for strategic raw materials, such as germanium and gallium, to secure and diversify their supply, among other actions, by selecting strategic projects ⁽⁷⁾.

The RESourceEU Action Plan ⁽⁸⁾ further accelerates the achievement of the CRMA objectives.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/15/2025-00636/framework-for-artificial-intelligence-diffusion#p-59>.

⁽²⁾ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council on 'European Economic Security Strategy', JOIN (2023) 20 final.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on foreign subsidies distorting the internal market.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/694 (Chips Act), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1781/oj>.

⁽⁵⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a framework of measures for strengthening the Union's semiconductor ecosystem, repealing Regulation (EU) 2023/1781 (Chips Act 2.0), COM(2026) 504 final.

⁽⁶⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials/critical-raw-materials-act_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials/strategic-projects-under-crma_en.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2025) 945 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0945>.