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E-003187/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.9.2026)

At the start of the mandate, the Commission set the objective of making the EU an AI Continent. This translated into policy attention on a number of key dimensions: computing infrastructures, high-quality data, AI adoption, talent and skills, and regulatory simplification. This has led, among others, to the launch of several initiatives including the Apply AI Strategy¹, aimed at supporting the integration of AI in strategic sectors and strengthening competitiveness of European businesses.

Building on the AI Continent Action Plan², the Commission proposed the AI Omnibus³ and supported its negotiations by the co-legislators, which introduced targeted simplifications to lower the compliance burden for companies. The Commission also launched its most ambitious initiative to date to expand the EU's AI computing capacity: a call for tenders to establish AI Gigafactories⁴ in the EU, which is expected to mobilise at least EUR 30 billion in public and private investment.

More broadly, the EU needs to reinforce its capacity across the entire AI stack. This is the goal of the recent Tech Sovereignty Package⁵. Among others, the Cloud and AI Development Act⁶ aims to encourage investment in computing capacity by addressing existing barriers, while also supporting the development of frontier, physical and industrial AI. Furthermore, the Strategic Roadmap for Digitalisation and AI in the energy sector⁷ introduced a strategic initiative where EU grid operators and solutions providers are developing sovereign AI models for planning and managing electricity grids. At the same time, maintaining Europe's competitiveness in this field will require sustained efforts and investment from all actors in the EU, notably its leading industrial companies.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0723>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0165>.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202601744.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-launches-ai-gigafactories-call-boost-europes-computing-capacity-and-unlock-more-eu30-billion>.

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-tech-sovereignty>.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026PC0502>.

⁷ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/eus-energy-system/digitalisation-energy-system_en.