



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B – Just Transition, Consumers, Efficiency and Innovation
B.2 – Energy Efficiency: Policy and Financing

Brussels
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Subject: Energy and data centre rating schemes - consumption

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your messages and for sharing your concerns about the environmental impact of data centres, in particular their high energy and water consumption, the need for greater transparency, and the importance of aligning digital development with Europe's climate and sustainability objectives.

We have carefully noted the points you raise, including calls for reliable disclosure of data centres' energy and water use, stronger protection of water as a scarce common resource, greater use of renewable and low-emission energy sources, and stronger accountability in how data centres source and manage their resources.

Please be assured that the Commission has noted the aspects you have raised. The Commission is committed to establishing a meaningful and proportionate sustainable framework to balance important objectives, namely, strengthening energy resilience, affordability and decarbonisation on the one hand, and supporting technology sovereignty on the other, including through the deployment of computing capacities.

The Commission is currently working on requirements for data centres¹ under the Energy Efficiency Directive², including reporting obligations³ to provide an evidence base and improve transparency. In addition, the Commission is developing a common Union rating scheme⁴, and is considering launching an open public consultation on minimum performance standards which each data centre would need to meet in the future⁵. The common Union rating scheme notably envisages displaying the consumption of energy and water per data centre and its ability to offer its waste heat to third users. The scheme also intends to provide incentives to data centres to contribute to the additional deployment

¹ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-targets-directive-and-rules/energy-efficiency-directive/energy-performance-data-centres_en

² 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):
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj>

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1364 of 14 March 2024 on the first phase of the establishment of a common Union rating scheme for data centres:
http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/1364/oj

⁴ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/rating-scheme-data-centres-eu-commission-launches-call-feedback-2026-03-27_en

⁵ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/resources/preparatory-studies/minimum-performance-standards-eu-data-centres_en

of renewable and low-emission energy generation, which is an important feature for mitigating the impacts on other energy consumers (households and industry).

The Commission has also established a European database on data centres⁶, with information made publicly available in aggregated form through a public dashboard⁷ and annual analysis reports. In parallel, Member States are required under the Energy Efficiency Directive to define which information data centre owners and operators must make publicly available, within the applicable rules on security and confidentiality.

As a final point, allow me to recall that the Commission bases its proposals on the best available evidence and it supplements available and reported data with technical studies, stakeholder consultations, including with Member States, and expert validation. For our work on data centres, this has been the case with the reporting scheme that was established in 2024, again with the rating scheme that we intend to establish soon, and for the possible minimum performance standards, for which the Commission will launch a call for evidence and an open public consultation, followed by an impact assessment.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and contribute to this important discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Margareta Djordjevic
Head of Unit

⁶ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-targets-directive-and-rules/energy-efficiency-directive/energy-performance-data-centres_en#a-data-base-for-reporting

⁷ https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/940a61c3-bcfe-47d6-a786-25d93aa63b85/sheet/ZLWpJa/state/analysis/bookmark/381456a5-1044-4047-92f5-671be7ad92c4