



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Questions and answers on the Data centre energy efficiency package

Why is the Commission proposing a labelling scheme for data centres?

Most of the data centre capacity that will be on the ground in the next 20 years will be designed and constructed in the next 3-5 years. The Union's [digital strategy](#) emphasises the need for highly energy-efficient and sustainable data centres and calls for measures to ensure transparency from data centre operators about their environmental footprint.

Building on the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#), the Commissioner for Energy and Housing announced a Data Centre Energy Efficiency Package as part of the [10-point action plan to accelerate energy efficiency](#) in Europe.

The package consists of three parts. The first part is a report to the European Parliament and Council assessing the data reported by the sector and identifying the next steps that could be taken to develop a more sustainable sector. The second part is the rating scheme, and the third is the call for evidence and public consultation on minimum performance standards for data centres. With the **rating scheme** and the label, we want to promote transparency and adoption of best technology solutions. The third part is the launch of an open public consultation on minimum performance standards for data centres, regarding (indicatively) their energy efficiency, water use, waste heat reuse, services to the grid and other selected sustainability criteria.

How is the Commission assessing the energy efficiency and sustainability of European data centres? What will change with the common Union rating scheme?

The common Union rating scheme on data centres complements the reporting scheme introduced in 2024 (Delegated Regulation 2024/1364) and proposes a label for the performance of data centres in Europe.

The reporting scheme has already given first evidence on the energy and water performance of data centres in Europe. The main sustainability indicators of European data centres, such as power usage effectiveness, water usage effectiveness, and clean energy sourcing, are at a satisfactory level, particularly when compared with previous years.

Nevertheless, there is room for improvement in both existing and newly built facilities and the introduced label will add transparency in how the sector adopts more sustainable technologies and practices. It is important to provide local stakeholders with greater knowledge and foster closer connections between the digital system, the energy system, and local communities.

It should be noted that the rapid growth in installed capacity is accompanied by a comparable rise in the absolute consumption of energy and water, thus improvements in efficiency are of great importance to the local energy and water systems.

The rating scheme will cover **three dimensions of sustainability** (power use efficiency, water use efficiency, use of low-emission sources) and other indicators (grid functions, waste heat reuse readiness). It will also display if a data centre contributes to the creation of new, additional clean energy generation, for example through contracting power purchase agreements with renewable or nuclear power plants, which are not older than ten years or which have been substantially refurbished over the last ten years. The label will be easily accessible and produced automatically by the [EU database](#), without creating any additional administrative burden.

The aim of the rating scheme is **to increase transparency about the energy use** of data centres and to become a resource that will **inform better policy making** and procurement of more sustainable digital assets and services across Europe. It is expected to **allow comparison between data centres in the same region** and promote new designs or appropriate efficiency interventions in new or existing data centres.

Why is the Commission launching an open public consultation on minimum performance standards (MPS) for data centres?

The aim of MPS is to reduce the energy consumption and environmental footprint of data centres in the EU by ensuring that all new or retrofitted data centres meet a minimum performance level for energy efficiency, water use, waste-heat reuse, services to the grid and other selected sustainability criteria.

Creating an EU framework would reduce regulatory fragmentation between Member States and avoid divergent or non-complementary national approaches weakening the EU's competitiveness and deteriorating the operational environment for data centre operators.

For more information

[Press release](#)

[Data Centre Energy Efficiency Package](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation establishing a common Union rating scheme for data centres and annexes](#)

[European database for data centres](#)

[Energy Efficiency of Data Centres Report](#)

[Energy Efficiency Directive](#)

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-targets-directive-and-rules/energy-efficiency-directive/energy-performance-data-centres_en[Reporting scheme for data centres](#)

[Minimum performance standards for EU data centres](#)