

**Question for written answer E-004759/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ciarán Cuffe (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Data centres and EU competition law

1. Is the Commission aware of any significant disparity between Member States with regard to the development charges and fees levied by planning authorities and electricity grid operators for developments such as data centres that require large and continuous amounts of electricity?
2. Given that Ireland in particular has a relatively high number of data centres per capita (70 for a population of 5.01 million people), does the Commission have concerns that this may amount to State aid within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union?
3. If so, does it plan to investigate any possible breaches of EU competition law? In its reply, could the Commission please refer to any studies that it has undertaken on this issue.