

Title: High-level event: Artificial intelligence and energy

Location: Jean Rey Room, Berlaymont, Rue de la Loi 200, Brussels, Belgium

Organized by: European Commission

Date: 19 November 2025



Source: ©AdobeStock/ThorstenSchier

Key takeaways from the main speakers

Henna **VIRKKUNEN** (Executive Vice-President for Tech sovereignty, Security and Democracy): suggested building a digital backbone; ensuring “energy for AI” and “AI for energy”; strengthening cybersecurity and interoperability; and creating an enabling regulatory framework.

Dan **JØRGENSEN** (Commissioner for Energy and Housing): AI can benefit the energy sector by cutting emissions, reducing cost and increasing efficiency. EU-wide reliable data sharing, efficient use of resources, and stronger cooperation between operators and public authorities are needed.

Laura **COZZI** (Director of Sustainability Technology and Outlooks, IEA): AI is driving exponential data-centre electricity demand. The EU is losing global market share, compared with China and the US - the Middle East and Southeast Asia are new market players. Electricity is a key enabler for fostering AI. Transparency and innovation are important.

Bernard **GUSTIN** (CEO, Elia Group): regulation is not keeping pace with growth; TSOs are constrained by the “first-come first-served” principle, data-centre projects are proliferating, and governments must set clear priorities. Transparency on real needs, short-term flexibility and a dedicated regulation for data centres are needed.

Marie **CHABANON** (CTO, Data4): the EU needs short-term targets to triple capacity by 2030; TSOs must better understand demand and manage connection queues. Regulation should shift from transactional to collaborative. Simplification and shared risks and commitments among operators, grids, and local authorities are needed.

Vincent **VERBEKE** (CEO, Engie Belgium): the EU needs energy transition champions and innovation. He called for simplified and faster permitting process, collocation, flexibility and additional generation capacity.

João **CLARO** (CEO and President of INESC TEC) collocation combined with flexibility rations, incentives for verifiable carbon matching and flexibility are needed. AI demand scenarios need to be developed. Green service level agreements could be useful for data centers demand management. Software systems need to allow for energy efficiency.

Yoann **BERSIHAND** (VP AI Technology, Schneider Electric): cyberattacks in critical infrastructure drive the need for secure, AI-enabled transformation. Schneider's AI strategy is built on transparency and explainability, robustness and resilience, as well as sustainability, while focusing on ethical risks.

Barbara **WITTENBERG** (CTO, 1KOMMA5): the main challenge is data availability and access, not regulating AI itself; without location-specific grid data, AI cannot optimally steer assets to relieve congestion.

Why this matters - A note from *Andromachi*

The newly published [Data Union Strategy](#) and [European Grids Package](#) attempt to address some of the aspects discussed above (such as accessing quality data and the “first-ready first-serve” principle). The upcoming [Strategic Roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector](#) (Q1 2026) will further shape the sector's regulatory landscape. These developments will directly affect **Greece's** existing and planned data center portfolio.

Disclaimer: The Flash Reports reflect the views expressed by event speakers. Any opinions expressed by the author are clearly indicated as such and do not represent the Greek Energy Forum or any other organization the author is affiliated with. The Reports are based on information available at the time and are intended solely for general informational purposes; they should not be interpreted as legal advice. Inclusion of a speaker's statements does not imply endorsement by the Greek Energy Forum or the author. While we aim for accuracy, neither the Greek Energy Forum nor the author can guarantee completeness or correctness. The Flash Reports are a voluntary and non-remunerated initiative. Content may be shared with attribution; unauthorized reproduction is not permitted.