

DynUG Vårfestival · Oslo · 2 June 2026

# Digital Sovereignty & National Data Centers

*Fra olje til algoritmer.*

Ole Henrik Ree

Director, Strategic Sales — Microsoft Norway

Salt Art & Music · ~25 minutes + Q&A

Many conversations, the last few months

# It used to be a CIO question.

*"Ole — if things escalate between the US and Europe, what actually happens to our data?"*

— A Norwegian business leader, April 2026

## NOW IT IS A BOARDROOM QUESTION

### Two years ago

A technical CIO conversation.

### Today

The CEO is asking. The board chair is asking. Customers call us — not about Azure prices, but about risk, control, and trust.

## The backdrop

# A geopolitical moment meets an AI moment.

## Europe

- Macron: Europe must stand on its own feet.
- EU Commission: Cloud & AI Development Act.
- France: Bleu. Germany: Delos.

## The world

- Trade relations in motion.
- Trust across continents tested.
- A return to first principles on control.

## At the same time

- AI is becoming the productivity engine of the decade.
- Capital deployment unlike anything since the grid build-out.
- A board-level conversation, not an IT one.

**NORWAY** · NHO estimates AI could unlock 5,600 billion NOK in Norwegian economic potential by 2040.

*Sovereignty has become the new boardroom question.*

Definition

# Sovereignty is not geography.

## THE MISCONCEPTION

*"If the server sits in Norway, we are sovereign."*

A Canadian court ordered a French cloud provider to hand over data stored in France — **because the provider had substantial presence in Canada.**

**Geography mattered less than people assume.**

### 01 Cybersecurity

Digital borders must be defensible.

### 03 Privacy

20 years of GDPR — strengthened, not eroded.

### 05 Continuity & resilience

Services run, even when conditions do not.

### 02 Data residency & control

You know where data is. You decide access.

### 04 Local ecosystem investment

Norwegian partners, developers, founders.

Brussels, 30 April 2025

# Microsoft's five European Digital Commitments.

1

## **Build a broad AI & cloud ecosystem in Europe**

40% capacity expansion · 200+ datacenters · 16 countries by 2027.

2

## **Stand by Europe — even through geopolitical volatility**

*Contractual digital resilience commitment.*

3

## **Protect the privacy of European data**

EU Data Boundary complete — extended to AI processing including Copilot.

4

## **Defend Europe's cybersecurity**

New European Deputy CISO · \$500M+ in support to Ukraine since 2022.

5

## **Strengthen Europe's competitiveness, including open source**

Azure open to 1,800+ AI models · export fees removed for customers who leave.

Commitment #2 — the radical one

# If anyone orders us to shut Europe down — we fight it.

01

## Contest immediately

Any government order — anywhere in the world — to suspend cloud services in Europe will be contested. In court. In that country.

02

## Continuity by design

European partners (Bleu, Delos) ready to operate. Backup copies of our code held in a secure repository in Switzerland.

03

## European governance

A European board of EU citizens oversees our European datacenter operations — under European law.

*We have sued our own government before. Four cases under Obama. One Supreme Court win under Trump. Trust is the entire business model.*

# Now covering AI — including Copilot.

## COVERAGE

Microsoft 365

Dynamics 365

Power Platform

Azure

**Copilot AI processing**

*Stored and processed in EU/EFTA.*

In-country AI processing

15

selected markets — including the Nordics — by end of 2026.

*When you use Copilot in Outlook, in Teams, in Dynamics 365 — queries are processed within Europe's borders.*

## Three paths

# Same technology. Same trust. Matched to your risk.

## Sovereign Public Cloud

*For most organizations*

- Data stays in Europe, under EU law
- Operated by European personnel
- Customer-controlled keys & AI model choice

## Sovereign Private Cloud

*For air-gapped or in-tenant workloads*

- Azure Local · Microsoft 365 Local
- AI Foundry Local
- Disconnected mode where required

## Sovereign Partner Ecosystem

*For national-control models*

- Bleu — France
- Delos — Germany
- Plus Nordic, European & global hosting partners

The Nordics

# Already a sovereign hub.

## Norway

*Live + Narvik in build*

## Sweden

*Live datacenter region*

## Denmark

*Live datacenter region*

## Finland

*Live datacenter region*

# #3

## Norway ranks #3 globally in AI adoption.

*Half of the 15 leading countries are European. Source: Microsoft AI for Good Lab — Global AI Adoption Report 2025.*

*We are not a country that lags. We are a country that leads.*

Bjerkvik, Narvik · 20 November 2025

# The foundation stone of Europe's new AI hub.

**66**

**billion NOK**

*Microsoft investment in the project.*

**100**

**million NOK**

*AkerNscale + UiT innovation center, Narvik.*

**100%**

**renewable**

*Hydropower-driven, secured grid capacity.*

*"Da jeg vokste opp i nord, snakket vi om kraft, oljeindustri og muligheter i nord. I dag snakker vi om kunstig intelligens, bærekraft og digitalisering."*

— Kristine Steidel, Country Manager, Microsoft Norway

*From oil to algorithms.*

Why Narvik. Why now.

# Three reasons.

01

## Energy

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Clean, renewable, stable power — exactly what Europe needs most to build AI infrastructure. Norway has it. In abundance. And especially in the north.

02

## Geopolitics

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A stable, democratic, NATO member with strong institutions and high public trust. The kind of jurisdiction Europe needs as host for its critical digital infrastructure.

03

## Competence

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We have built complex, decades-long infrastructure before — oil & gas, hydropower, process industry. And Aker has done it for over a century. An industrial anchor.

Munich Security Conference, 13 February 2026

# Trusted Tech Alliance.



## MEMBERS

Anthropic · ASML · AWS · Cassava · Cohere · Ericsson · Google Cloud · Hanwha · Jio Platforms · Microsoft · Nokia · Nscale · NTT · Rapidus · Saab · SAP

*Note: Nscale — the same Nscale building in Narvik.*

## FIVE PRINCIPLES OF A TRUSTED TECHNOLOGY STACK

- 01**  
Transparent corporate governance
- 02**  
Operational transparency & secure development
- 03**  
Robust supply chain security
- 04**  
Open & interoperable ecosystems
- 05**  
Respect for rule of law & data protection

For the Dynamics community

# What this means for you.

## YOUR STACK IS COVERED

- Dynamics 365 — EU Data Boundary
- Power Platform — EU Data Boundary
- Microsoft 365 — EU Data Boundary
- Copilot interactions — EU Data Boundary

*Stored in Europe. Processed in Europe.*

## WHEN THE BOARD ASKS — "ARE WE SAFE?"

*The answer is yes — and here is why:*

- 01** Data lives in Europe — processed in Europe.
- 02** We have contractually committed to contest any shutdown order.
- 03** What you run on today is being strengthened by what we are building in Narvik.

## NORWEGIAN LEADERS ALREADY DELIVERING VALUE — ON THE STACK YOU RUN

**DNB** · AI handles 60% of customer inquiries

**Equinor** · 3 billion NOK industrial AI value

**Visma** · 50% faster IT development cycles

CLOSING

Digital sovereignty is not a product.

*It is a position you take.*

*Through the suppliers you choose. The architectures you build. The contracts you sign.  
The partners you trust.*

Norway is not on the edge of this story.

*We are at the center of it.*

Thank you.

*Over to Fredrik — and to the music.*