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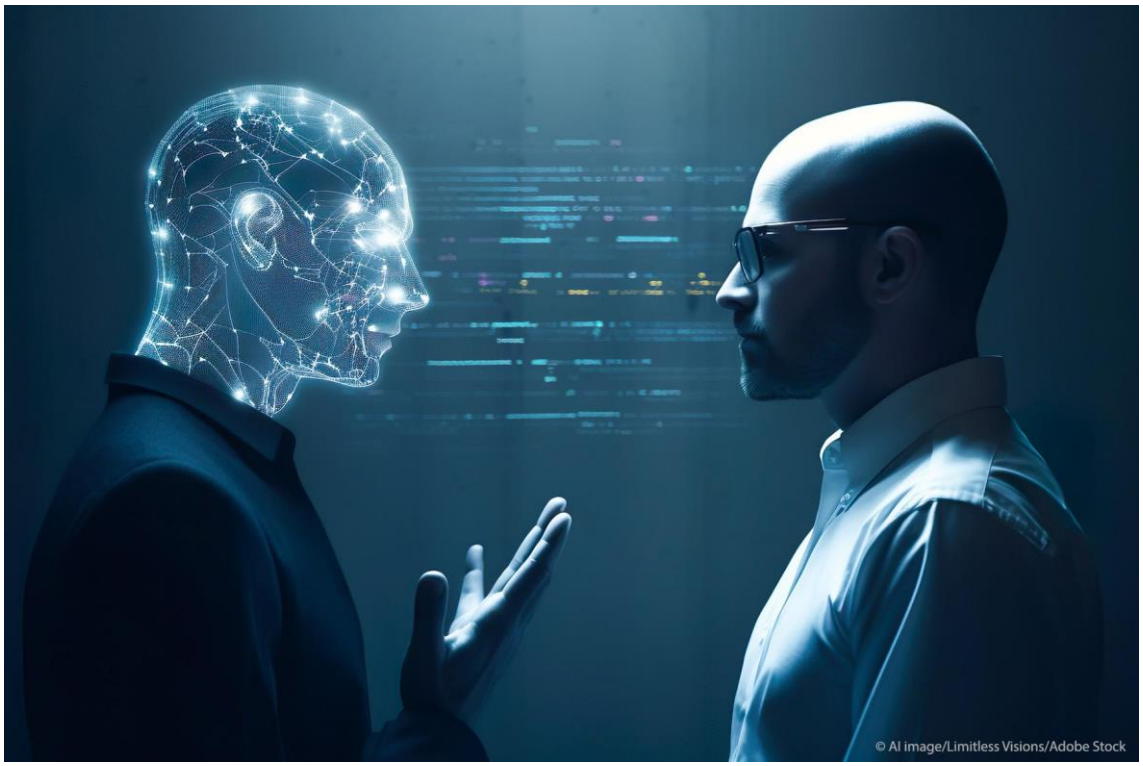
Parlamento Europeo

EU AI Act: First regulation on artificial intelligence



The use of artificial intelligence in the EU will be regulated by the Artificial Intelligence Act, the world's first comprehensive AI law. Find out more about how it will work here.

As part of itsdigital strategy, the EU wants to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) to ensure better conditions for the development and use of this innovative technology.AI can bring many benefits, such as better health care, more efficient transportation, safe and clean, more efficient manufacturing, and cheaper and more sustainable energy.

In April 2021, the Commission proposed the first EU regulatory framework for AI. It proposes that AI systems that may be used in different applications should be analysed and classified according to the risk they pose to users. Different levels of danger will imply more or less regulation.

More information about what artificial intelligence is and how it is used.

What Parliament believes cannot be missing from AI legislation

The Parliament's priority is to ensure that AI systems used in the EU are safe, transparent, traceable, non-discriminatory and environmentally friendly. AI systems should be supervised by people, rather than automation, to avoid harmful outcomes.

Parliament also wants to establish a uniform and technologically neutral definition of AI that can be applied to future AI systems.

More information about the Parliament's work on AI and his vision of the future of AI.

AI Law: Different rules for different levels of risk

The new regulation sets out obligations for providers and users based on the level of risk posed by AI. Although many AI systems pose minimal risk, all systems need to be assessed.

Unacceptable risk

Unacceptable risk AI systems are those that are considered a threat to people and will be banned. They include:

- cognitive manipulation of the behaviour of specific vulnerable individuals or groups – for example, voice-activated toys that encourage dangerous behaviour in children
- social score: ranking people based on their behavior, socioeconomic status, or personal characteristics
- real-time and remote biometric identification systems, such as facial recognition.

There are, however, some exceptions to this qualification. For example, remote biometric identification systems "a posteriori", in which identification occurs after a significant delay, will be permitted for the prosecution of serious crimes and only with prior judicial approval.

High risk

AI systems that negatively impact security or fundamental rights will be considered high risk and will be divided into two categories.

1. AI systems used in products subject to the EU legislation on product safety. This includes toys, aviation, automobiles,

medical devices and elevators.

2. AI systems belonging to eight specific areas that will have to be registered in an EU database:

- Biometric identification and categorization of natural persons
- management and operation of critical infrastructures
- education and vocational training
- employment, worker management and access to self-employment
- access to and enjoyment of essential private services and public services and benefits
- law enforcement
- Migration, asylum and border control management
- assistance in legal interpretation and application of the law.

All high-risk AI systems will be assessed before they are placed on the market and throughout their lifecycle. Citizens will have the right to lodge complaints about AI systems with specific national authorities.

Transparency requirements

Generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is not considered high risk, but will have to comply with transparency requirements and EU copyright law:

- reveal that the content has been generated by AI
- design the model to prevent it from generating illegal content
- publish summaries of copyrighted data used for training

General-purpose AI models with a high impact and that could pose a systemic risk, such as the most advanced AI model GPT-4, will have to undergo thorough assessments and report any serious incidents to the Commission.

Content that has been generated or modified with the help of AI, such as images, audio or videos (for example, “deepfakes”), will need to be clearly labelled as such.

Driving innovation

The legislation provides for SMEs and start-ups to have controlled testing and trial spaces in real conditions at a national level so that they can develop and train innovative AI before commercialisation.

Next steps

Parliamentadopted the Artificial Intelligence Act in March 2024 and theAdvice followed him with its approval in May 2024.

It will be fully applicable 24 months after its entry into force, but some parts will become applicable earlier:

- The ban on AI systems that pose unacceptable risks will apply six months after entry into force
- Codes of good practice will apply nine months after entry into force
- Rules on general-purpose AI systems that must meet transparency requirements will apply 12 months after entry into force.
- High-risk systems will have more time to comply with the requirements, as the obligations that concern them will apply 36 months after entry into force.

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More information

Report: Law on artificial intelligence

European Commission: Artificial Intelligence: Questions and Answers