

Kai Zenner

Presentation on:

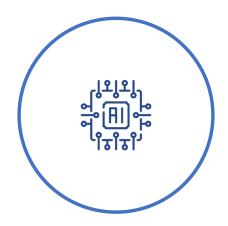
'The Al Act and the EU's digital competitiveness'

Who am I?

- ❖ Head of Office and Digital Policy Adviser for MEP Axel Voss (EPP group) in the European Parliament since 2017
- Focusses on Al, data and the EU's digital transition, while pushing for internal reforms of the European Parliament as well as a return to the Better Regulation agenda.
- * Key files: Al Act, AIDA Resolution, Al Liability Directive, Representative Action Directive, Whistleblower Directive, ePrivacy Regulation, GDPR, Privacy Shield, Eurojust Regulation.



Outline



Chapter 1: The Al Act

Do we need an Al law? What conceptual choices have been made by the EU Commission? How to assess the final text?



Chapter 2: The policy cycle

Case study Al Act: how power struggles and a disregard for the Better Regulation agenda are resulting in legislative overlaps as well as enforcement issues.

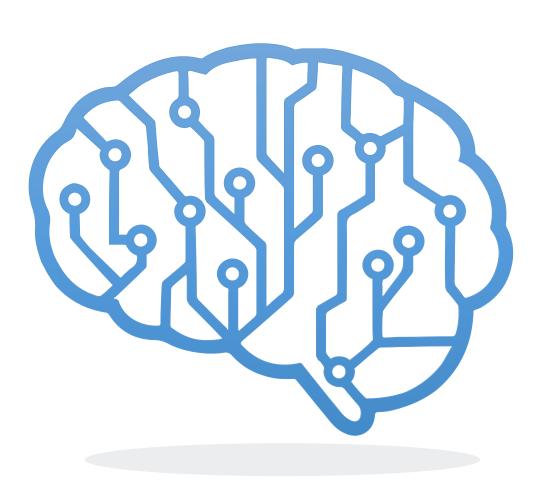


Chapter 3: Digital competitiveness

What does that mean for the EU's goal to become a global leader in AI? How to describe the status quo? What can be done to make the AI Act work despite all those problems listed before?



Chapter 1: The Al Act



- Al is an umbrella term that covers a wide range of old and new technologies that often have little more in common than being guided by a given set of human-defined objectives and having some degree of autonomy in their actions.
- The 1st wave of 'symbolic' AI (1950s-90s) was based on rule-based procedures

 (= algorithm) that were determined by human experts. In the 1990s, the increased availability of data initiated the 2nd wave of 'data-driven' AI. Machine or deep-learning approaches enabled the algorithms to improve themselves by training with data and thereby allow them to regularly bypass the expert systems of the 1st wave AI.
- Many fears linked to Al are based on TV shows and hypothetical concepts such as artificial superintelligence or singularity. In reality, there are significant doubts as to whether machines will ever be able to break free from human control, considering our technologies and scientific laws.
- As the majority of AI systems that are currently in use do not pose any risk, the public debate should focus more on the enormous potential of AI (from combating global societal challenges such as climate change to enhancing quality of life through personalised medicine).



New legal gaps?





External information could be flawed or missing, wrongly perceived by built-in sensors or falsely communicated by regular data sources or ad-hoc suppliers.

UNPREDICTABILITY



The ability to identify and classify new input and link it to a self-chosen reaction that has not been pre-programmed as such makes the impact hard to foresee.

AUTONOMY



Al can operate without control or supervision by using self-learning processes to alter its initial algorithm or to deviate from the original instruction of an human expert.

OPACITY



Algorithms no longer come as readable code but as a black-box that has evolved through self-learning and which human beings may be able to test with regards to its effects but no longer fully understand.

OPENNESS



Al is open by design, depend upon subsequent input (e.g. updates) and need to interact with other systems or data sources in order to function properly. It is never completed like regular products.

COMPLEXITY



An Al-system is already highly complex in itself but often also just a component of larger software system that is connected with many other Al-/ non-Al-systems in a digital ecosystem.

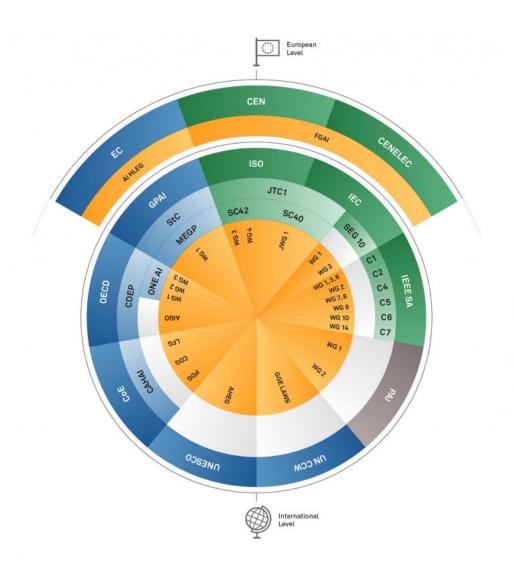
VULNERABILITY



Frequent updates and external interactions increase the risk of cybersecurity breaches that may cause malfunctions or modify the features of the Al system.



International organisations & fora

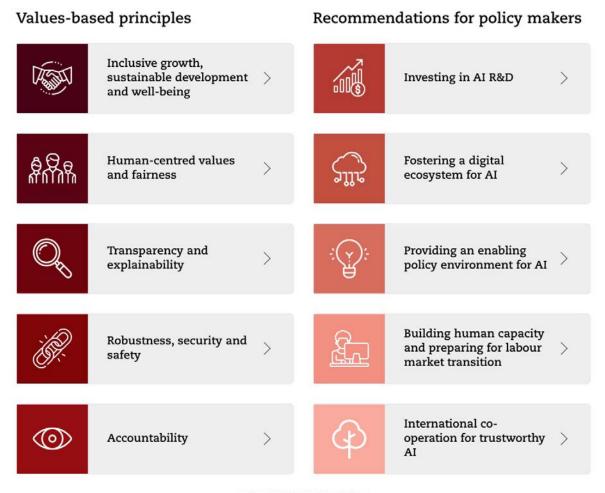


Stakeholders Engaged in the Governance of Al Ethics





International organisations & fora





A special type of Product Safety law

New Legislative Framework (NLF)





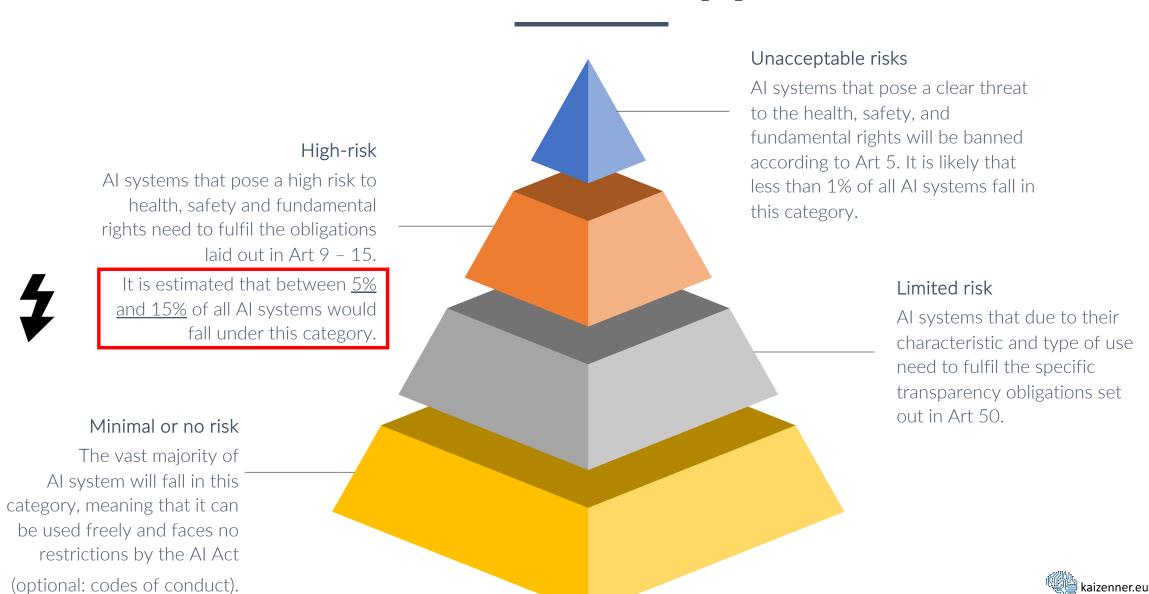
- Common framework for products based on 23 EU laws (i.e. Toy Safety, Radio Equipment, MDR)
- Set of principles for CE marking, accreditation of notified bodies, and conformity assessments.
- Rules for market surveillance and the enforcement of conformity to ensure that products sold on the Internal Market of the EU market are safe.

Fundamental Rights Protection



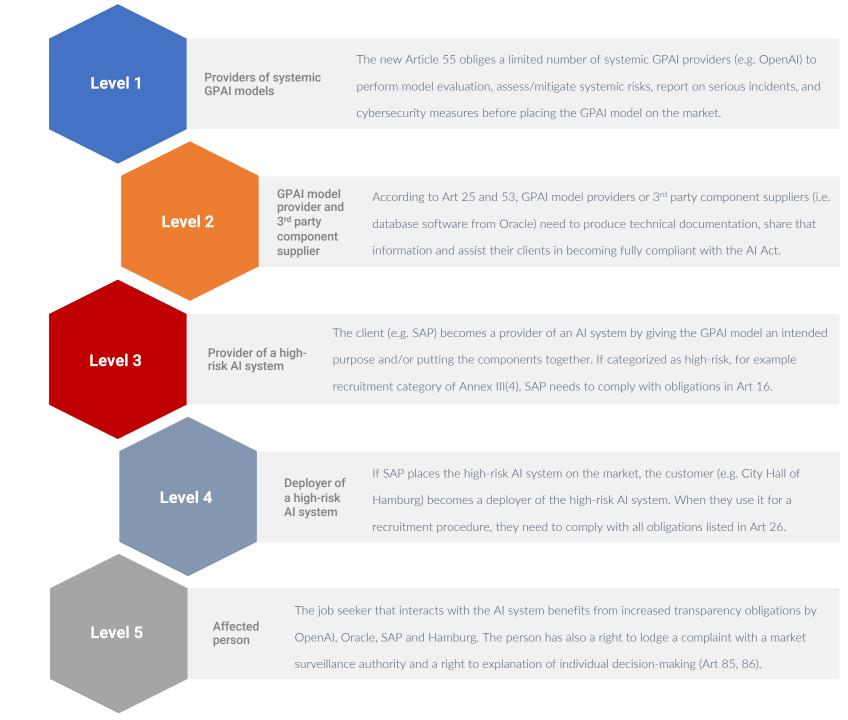
- The EU Al Act not only protects 'health' and 'safety' like normal NLF laws do but also protects 'fundamental rights' as enshrined in the FU Charta.
- As a result, providers / deployers of high-risk Al-systems are obliged to include fundamental rights considerations in risk assessments and other areas.
- There is a lack of experience in NLF for this topic, in particular with regard to technical standards. kaizenner.eu

The risk-based approach



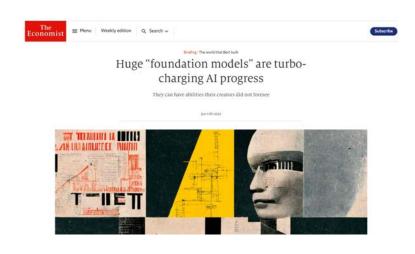
Responsibilities along the Al value chain

Why a holistic approach with shared responsibilities is much better than the original Commission focus on the downstream provider and deployer





Systemic GPAI models





GPAI models (foundation models) are an essential building block that is used by many downstream providers to develop their specific AI systems. Compared to an AI system that has an intended purpose, GPAI models are undetermined like a kind of digital plasticine. They are useable in many sectors and applicable to countless (mostly low-risk) use cases (i.e. >1300 documented use cases of GPT 3.5).

Since the AI Act has a risk-based approach and focuses on specific high-risk intended purposes, the law is conceptually not designed to cover GPAI models. As a result, the upstream GPAI providers – often large US tech companies – would be completely freed from facing regulatory burden. The existing market concentration would probably be further increased. Moreover, EU companies as simple customers would not have enough information / assistance to fulfil the AI Act obligation and would face heavy fines via Art 99. Sufficient documentation therefore seems key to make compliance work.

For a very small number of systemic (cutting-edge) GPAI models even more obligation seem necessary. Their models have become so powerful and will occupy such a dominant role in the AI value chain that a special set of rules is required. Providers of such systemic GPAI models should be forced to align their models – as much as technical feasible at this early development stage – with the AI Act obligations for systems. Three elements stand out (a) risk identification, (b) model testing to minimize societal harm, and (c) cybersecurity measures. This extra layer would guarantee that systemic GPAI models are safe and comprehensible enough for downstream providers to integrate them in AI systems or deploy them in GPAI systems.

Systemic GPAI models

Article 3 Definitions

- (63) 'general-purpose Al model' means an Al model, including where such an Al model is trained with a large amount of data using self-supervision at scale, that displays significant generality and is capable of competently performing a wide range of distinct tasks regardless of the way the model is placed on the market and that can be integrated into a variety of downstream systems or applications, except Al models that are used for research, development or prototyping activities before they are released on the market:
- (65) 'systemic risk' means a risk that is specific to the high-impact capabilities of general- purpose Al models, having a significant impact on the Union market due to their reach, or due to actual or reasonably foreseeable negative effects on public health, safety, public security, fundamental rights, or the society as a whole, that can be propagated at scale across the value chain;

Article 51 Classification of general purpose AI models as general purpose AI models with systemic risk

- 2. A general-purpose Al model shall be presumed to have high impact capabilities pursuant to paragraph 1, point (a), when the cumulative amount of computation used for its training measured in FLOPs is greater than 10^25.
- ➤ More criteria for the designation of systemic GPAI models in ANNEX IXc

Models	Developers	Country
Jurassic-2	Al21 Labs	Israel
Claude	Anthropic	US
Ernie 3.0 Titan	Baidu	China
Cohere Command	cohere	Canada
PaLM 2	Google	US
Chinchilla	Google DeepMind	US / UK
LLaMa	Meta	US
VIMA	Nividia	US
GPT-4	Microsoft/OpenAl	US
Kosmos-1	Microsoft Research Asia	China
Stable Diffusion XL	stability.ai	UK

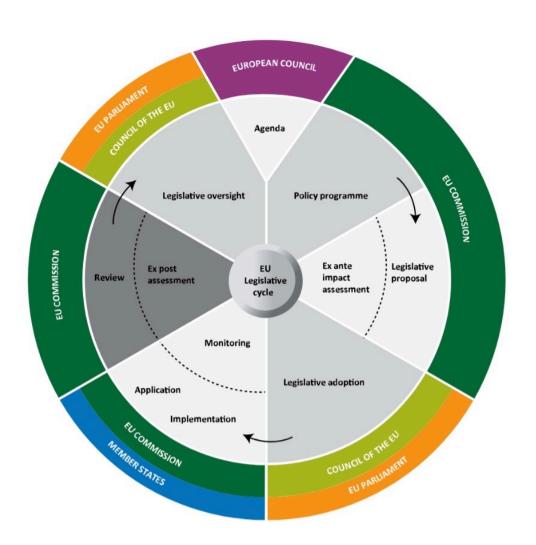
➤ When I wrote my OECD article in 2023, the following GPAI models would have probably be designated as 'systemic'.



Al Act: the pros & cons

International alignment (i.e. OECD AI definition). Evolving AI systems do no fit in NLF ecosystem. Horizontal scope leads to legal overlaps / gov. chaos. Principles that take context of use into account (Art 8). Burden sharing along the AI value chain (Art 25, 51 ff). Vague legal text (i.e. Art 3) and unclear procedures. Presumption of conformity via tech. standards (Art 40). Prohibitions (Art 5) + high-risk cases are blurry (Annex 3) Future-proof and cooperative law (i.e. DA/IA, RSB, GL) Issues with training & access to h/q datasets unsolved.

Chapter 2: The policy cycle



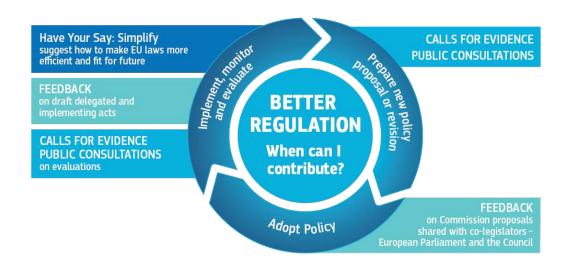
Main steps

- 1. Political guidelines and annual work programs
- 2. Inception Impact assessment + public consultation
- 3. Legislative drafting + Regulatory Scrutiny Board
- 4. Interservice consultation + adoption by the College
- 5. Finalisation of the General Approach in the Council as well as of the position of the European Parliament
- 6. Inter-institutional negotiations (Trilogue)
- 7. Publication in the Official Journal of the EU
- 8. Implementation & enforcement of the new law
- 9. Ex-post assessment & review of the law



Better Regulation agenda

Consultation





Quality control

- Integrated Better Regulation Guidelines for the policy making by EU Institutions.
- Regulatory Scrutiny Board that checks the Commission's proposal as well as the IA.
- Obligation to conduct a new Impact Assessment by the Council or Parliament in case of substantial ammendmends.

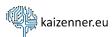


The European Commission



"The European Commission has a Secretariat-General consisting of 33 directoratesgeneral, which develop, manage and implement EU policy, law and funding.

In addition, there are also 20 special departments (services and agencies), which deal with ad hoc or horizontal issues."

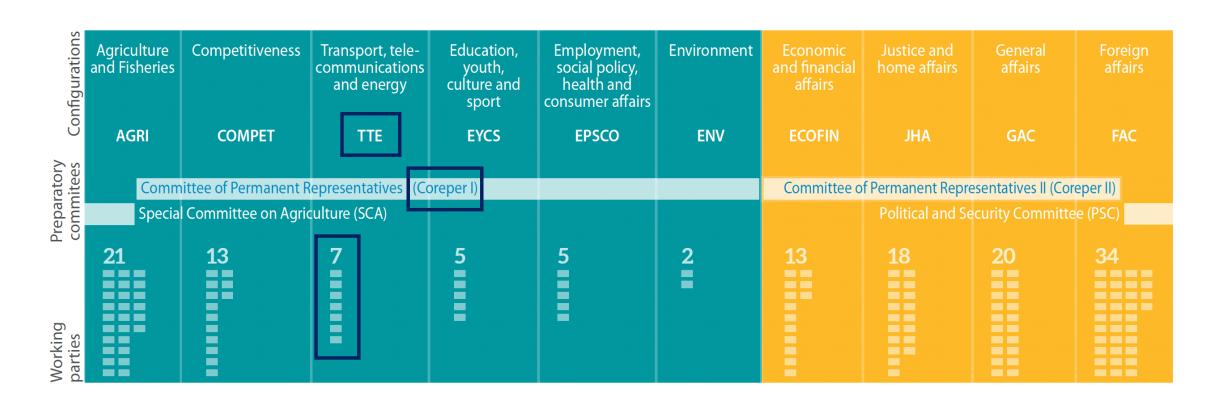


The European Commission





The Council of the EU



➤ Responsible for the EU Al Act: Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society consisting of 27 attachés of the different Member States.



The European Parliament





Responsible for the EU Al Act: two lead committees (Rule 58: IMCO, LIBE), three associated committees (Rule 57: JURI, ITRE, CULT), and two opinion giving committees (Rule 56: ENVI, TRAN).



Result: legislative overlaps

Already in the summer of 2021, we have received more and more feedback from researchers, legal experts as well as the Al community that indicated that the Al Act will contradict, interfere or overlap with existing and upcoming laws. Some of the most prominent examples that have been mentioned are:

- > GDPR (Art 5(4), 6(4), 13(2f), 14(2g), 15(1h), 22, 32, 33, 34, 35)
- > ePrivacy (use of communication data for training of translation systems, record keeping obligation)
- > P2B (Art 5)
- > DSA (Art 4(1e), 5(1), 5(3), 6, 22, 23)
- ➤ Platform Work Directive (Art 6, 7, 8, 9)
- ➤ NIS 2 (notifications with regards to security breach)
- ➤ Machine Regulation (definitions and criteria for Al)
- Sector specific laws (transport/connected cars, MDR/IVDR, insurances, finance, employment)



In November 2023, there were in total 116 EU laws for the digital sector:

- ➤ 77 legislative files have entered into force (adopted laws).
- ➤ 29 proposal are currently being discussed.
- ➤ 10 additional inniatives are planned.

Table 1: Overview of EU Legislations in the Digital Sector

Applicable law	Published in the Official Journal of the European Union.
In negotation	Proposal by the European Commission entered the legislative process.
Planed initiative	Mentioned by the European Commission as potential legislative initiative.

		1				1					
Research & Innovation	Industrial Policy	Connectivity	Data & Privacy	IPR	Cybersecurity	Law Enforcement	Trust & Safety	E-commerce & Consumer Protection	Competition	Media	Finance
Digital Europe Programme Regulation. IEUI 2021/694	Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation, (EU) 2021/241	Frequency Bands Directive. (EEC) 1987/372	ePrivacy Directive. [EC)2002/58, 2017/0003(COD)	Database Directive. (EC) 1995/9	Regulation for a Cybersecurity Act. (EU) 2019/881, 2023/0108(GOD)	Law Enforcement Directive, (EU) 2016/690	Product Liability Directive (PLD), (EEC) 1985/374, 2022/0302(GOD)	Unfair Contract Terms Directive (UCTD), (EEC) 1993/13	EC Merger regulation. (ECI 2004/139	Satellite and Cable Directive. (EEC) 1993/83	Common VAT syst (EC) 2006/112 2022/0407(CNS
Horizon Europe Regulation, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/764	InvestEU Programme Regulation (EU) 2021/523	Radio Spectrum Decision, (EC) 2002/675	European Statistics, (EC) 2009/223, 2023/0237ICODI	Community Design Directive. (EC) 2002/5 2022/0391(COD)	Regulation to establish a European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, (EU) 2021/887	Directive on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment. (EU) 2019/713	Toys Regulation, (EC) 2009/48, 2023/0290(COD)	Price Indication Directive. (EC) 1998/6	Technology Transfer Block Exemption, IEUI 2014/316	Information Society Directive, IECl 2001/29	Administrative cooperation in the of taxation, (EU) 2011/15
Regulation on a pilot regime for distributed ledger technology, (EU) 2022/858	Connecting Europe Facility Regulation, (EU) 2021/1153	Open Internet Access Regulation. (EU) 2015/2120	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), (EU) 2016/679	Enforcement Directive (8PR), (ECI 2004/49	NIS 2 Directive. (EU) 2022/2555	Regulation on interoperability between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa. (EU) 2019/817	European Standardization Regulation (EU) 2012/1025	E-commerce Directive, IEC12000/31	Company Law Directive. (EU) 2017/1132. 2023/0089(COD)	Audio-visual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), IEUI 2010/13	Payment Servic Directive 2 (PSD: IEU) 2015/2366 2023/0209(COI
	Regulation on High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking, (EU) 2021/1173. 2024/0016(CNS)	European Electronic Communications Code Directive (EECC), (EU) 2018/1972	Regulation to protect personal data processed by EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, (EU) 2018/1725	Directive on the protection of trade secrets, (EUI 2016/943	Cybersecurity Regulation. (EU) 2023/2841	Regulation on terrorist content online, (EU) 2021/784	Radio Equipment Directive (RED), (EU) 2014/53	Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD). IECI 2005/29	Market Surveillance Regulation, (EU) 2019/1020	Portability Regulation, (EU) 2017/1128	Digital Operation Resilience Act (DC Regulation), (EU) 2022/2554
	Regulation on Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe. (EU) 2021/2085. 2022/0033(NLE)	eu top-level domain Regulation. (EUI 2019/517	Regulation on the free flow of non-personal data, (EU) 2018/1807	Design Directive, 2022/0392(COD)	Information Security Regulation, 2022/0084(COD)	Temporary CSAM Regulation. (EU) 2021/1232. 2022/0155(COD)	elDAS Regulation (European Digital Identity Framework), (EU) 2014/910	Directive on Consumer Rights (CRD), (EU) 2011/83	P2B Regulation. (EUI 2019/1150	Satellite and Cable II Directive. (EU) 2019/789	Crypto-assets Regulation (MiC/ (EU) 2023/1114
	Decision on a path to the Digital Decade. IEU 2022/2481	Roaming Regulation, (EU) 2022/612	Open Data Directive IPSB (EUL2019/1024	Compulsory licensing of patents, 2023/0129(COD)	Cyber Resilience Act, 2022/0272(CQD)	E-evidence Regulation, (EU) 2023/1543	Regulation for a Single Digital Gateway, IEUL2018/1724	e-involcing Directive. (EU) 2014/55	Single Market Programme. (EU) 2021/590	Copyright Directive. (EU) 2019/790	Financial Data Acc Regulation, 2023/0205 (COI
	European Chips Act (Regulation). (EU) 2023/1781	. Union Secure Connectivity Programme. (EU) 2023/589	Data Governance Act (DGA Regulation). (EUI 2022/868	Standard essential patents. 2023/0133ICODJ	Cyber Solidarity Act (Regulation), 2023/0109(COD)	Digitalisation of cross-border judicial cooperation, (EU) 2023/2844	General Product Safety Regulation. (EU) 2023/988	Regulation on cooperation for the enforcement of consumer protection laws. [EU] 2017/2394	Vertical Block Exemption Regulation (VBER), (EU) 2022/720	European Media Freedom Act. (EU) 2024/1083.	Payment Service Regulation, 2023/0210ICOL
	Establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), (EUI:2024/795	Gigabit Infrastructure Act. (EU) 2024/1309	European Data Act (Regulation), (EU) 2023/2854			Directive on combating violence against women, 2022/0066/COD	Machinery Regulation, (EU) 2023/1230	Geo-Blocking Regulation. (EU) 2018/302	Digital Market Act (DMA Regulation), (EU) 2022/1925	Remuneration of musicians from third countries for recoredd music played in the EU	Digital euro. 2023/0212 (COI
	European critical raw materials act (Regulation). (EU) 2024/1252	New radio spectrum. policy programme (RSPP 2.0)	Interoperable Europe Act, (EU) 2024/903			Directive for combating sexual abuse and child sexual abuse material, 2024/0035/CODI	Al Act (Regulation). 2021/0106(COD)	Digital content Directive. (EU) 2019/770	Regulation on distortive foreign subsidies, (EU) 2022/2560		Regulation on combating late payr 2023/0323[COL
	Net Zero Industry Act. 2023/0081(COD)	Digital Networks Act	Regulation on data collection for short-term rental IEU/2024/1028			Digitalization of travel documents	Eco-design Regulation, 2022/0095(COD)	Directive on certain aspects concerning contracts for the sale of goods. (EU) 2019/771	Horizontal Block Exemption Regulations (HBER), (EU) 2023/1055, (EU) 2023/1067		
	EU Space Law		European Health Data Space (Regulation), 2022/0140(COD)				Al Liability Directive, 2022/0303(COD)	Digital Services Act (DSA Regulation), (EU) 2022/2065	Platform Work Directive, 2021/0414(COD)		
			Harmonisation of GDPR enforcement procedures, 2023/0202ICODI					Postical Advertising Regulation, (EU) 2024/900	Single Market Emergency Instrument (SMEI). 2022/0278(COD)		
			Access to vehicle data, functions and resources					Right to repair Directive, 2023/0083ICODI			
			GreenData4all					Consumer protection: strengthened, enforcement, cooperation			





Result: governance chaos

National level

National Competent Authorities

National Supervisory Authoritys

Notifying Authority

Market
Surveillance
Authority

European level

Commission / Al Office

Al Board

Expert Groups

EDPS

We received similar feedback with regard to the governance structure and enforcement mechanisms. Researchers, legal experts as well as the AI community pointed out that:

- ➤ Power struggles between new EU AI Act players and the existing EU agencies and bodies that have so far regulated and enforced on AI in their sector (i.e. financial services or health products) are very likely to occur.
- ➤ Member States will designate different bodies as NCAs with different perspectives on Al, which will lead to different interpretations and enforcement activities (despite Art 81).
- ➤ The national systems are further complicated by the involvement of national public authorities supervising Union law protection fundamental rights as well as sectorial governance structures.



In November
2023, there were
in total 65
governance
mechanism on
EU level.

Table 2: Overview of EU governance Mechanisms and Agencies in the Digital sector

Explanation

© Uninstitution

© Decentralised agency

© Independent body

© Network of Member States

© Executive agency

© Governing board

© Advisory body

© European Standardisation Organisations

Research & Innovation	Industrial Policy	Connectivity	Data & Privacy	IPR	Cybersecurity	Law Enforcement	Trust & Safety	E-Commerce & Consumer Protection	Competition	Media	Finance
European Commission (DG CNCT): Unit D.1 (IEU) 2021/694, (EU) 2021/695]	Governing Board of European High- Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) (IEU) 2021/1173]	European Commission (DG DEFIS): Unit B.1 (IEUI 2023/588)	European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA), (IEU) 2021/1731	European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) (IEU) 2012/386. (EU) 2017/1001)	CERT-EU ((EU, EURATOM) 2023/2841]	European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) (IEC) 1999/352)	European Commission (DG CNECT): Al Office (2021/0106 (COD))	European Commission (DG JUST): Unit B.3 (Consumer Enforcement and Recress)	European Commission (DG CNCT): Unit F.2 & F.3 (IEU) 2022/1925. (EU) 2022/2065)	European Board for Media Services (IEU) 2024/1083]	European Central Bank (ECB) (IEU) 2015/2366, 2023/0212 (COD)]
European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) (IEU). 2021/173. (EU). 2021/694. (EU). 2021/695]	Governing Board of Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips JU) [2022/0033(NLE)]	Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) [IEUJ.2015/2120. (EUJ.2015/1972. (EUJ.2022/612]	European Data Protection Board (EDPB) ((EU) 2016/679]	European Patent Organization (EPO) ((EU) 2012/1257)	European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC) ((EU) 2021/887)	EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) ((EC) 2007/168)	Gateway coordination group (IEU) 2018/1724]	European Board for Digital Services [IEU] 2022/2065]	European Commission [DG COMP: Antitrust]		European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) (IEU) 2022/658, (EU) 2022/2554, (EU) 2023/11141
European Innovation Council & SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) (IEU) 2021/173, (EU) 2021/695	European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) ((EU) 2022/2481)	European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) (IEU) 2021/696, (EU) 2023/5881	European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) [(EU) 2018/1725]	European Observatory on Infringements of IPR (IEU) 2012/386]	European Defence Agency (EDA) ((CFSP) 2015/18351	Europol (IEU) 2016/794]	European Artificial Intelligence Board [2021/0108(COD)]	Consumer Protection Cooperation Network (CPC) [(EU) 2017/2394]	European Commission (DG GROW): Unit A.4 [2022/0278 [CQD]]		European Banking Authority (EBA) (IEJ) 2015/2366, (ED) 2022/2554, (EU) 2023/1114, 2023/0205 (COD)
European Research Executive Agency (REA) IIEU) 2021/173, IEUI 2021/694, IEUI 2021/695)	European Chips Infrastructure Consortium (ECIC) ((EU) 2023/1781)	Governing Board of Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertakin (SNS JU) [[EU] 2021/2085]	European Statistical System Committee (IEC) 2009/2231	Compulsory licences advisory body [2023/0129ICOD]]	EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) (IEUI 2019/8811	European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) (IEU) 2017/1939]	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) [[EU] 2012/1025]	European Consumer Centres Network (IEU) 2021/6901	Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions (IEC) 2003/11		European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) ((EU) 2022/2554, 2023/0205 (CODI)
European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) IEU) 2021/173, (EU) 2021/694, (EU) 2021/695)	European Semiconductor Board ((EU) 2023/1781)	European Space Agency (ESA) ((EU) 2023/588)	European Data Innovation Board (EDIB) (IEU) 2022/868, (EU) 2023/2854]		European Cyber Shield [2023/0109/CODI]	eu-LISA ((EU) 2018/817, (EU) 2018/1726)	European Committee for Standardization (CEN) ((EU) 2012/1025)	Consumer Safety Network [[EU] 2023/998]	Advisory Committee on Concentrations (IEC) 2004/139)		Committee on Administrative Cooperation for Taxation [IEU]: 2011/16]
European Digital Innovation Hubs Network (EDIH) ((EU) 2021/694)	European Critical Raw Materials Board [IEU] 2024/1252]	Communications Committee (COCOM) (EU) 2018/1972, (EU) 2019/517, (EU) 2022/512]	Interoperable Europe Board (IEU) 2024/903]		European Cybersecurity Certification Group (ECCG) [(EU) 2019/881]	Eurojust (IEU) 2018/1727]	European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) [(EU) 2012/1025]		Contact Committee		VAT Committee [IEC] 2006/112. [CNS] 2022/0407]
	Net-Zero Europe Board (2023/0081 (COD))	.eu Multistakeholder Advisory Group [[EU] 2019/517]	European Health Data Space Board (EHDS) [2022/0140(CODI)		Interinstitutional Cybersecurity Board (IICB) [IEU. Euratom] 2023/2841]	Frontex [(EU) 2019/1895]			High-Level Group on DMA (IEU) 2022/1925]		The Standing Committee on Administrative Cooperation [ICNS) 2022/0407]
	European network of competence centers in semiconductors (IEU) 2023/17811	Interoperable Europe Board ((EU) 2024/903)			NIS cooperation group	Interoperability Advisory Group ((EU) 2019/817]			European Competition Network (ECN) ((EC) 2003/1)		
		,	,		Interinstitutitonal Information Security Coordination group [2022/0084(CODII	European Judicial Network in criminal matters [2022/0066 (COD)]			Union Product Compliance Network (IEUI 2019/1020)		
					Network of National Coordination Centres [(EU) 2021/887]					•	
					CSIRTs network [IEU) 2022/2555]						
#200 h					EU CyCLONe (IEU): 2022/25551						#2.





Chapter 3: Digital competitiveness

USA



The US government applies with the Executive Order a sector-specific approach. Moreover, it promotes private sector innovation, in particular by the US tech giants and their top universities.

As global AI leader, the US hosts the vast majority of leading AI firms, is predominant in VC, R&D spending and AI talent, and has an excellent digital infrastructure as well as a coherent and unified digital market.

CHINA



The Chinese regime considers AI as the key factor in the global tech race. It developed several long-term plans to become the leader in AI and to overtake the US in terms of military supremacy.

It adopted an Automated Decision-Making law but focusses on investments. While five years ago, China was significantly lagging behind in all Al markers, it quickly caught up and could soon become the dominant force in the field of Al

EU



The EU wants to bring AI in line with its core values and democratic principles.

Moreover, it hopes to achieve another GDPR-like 'Brussels effect' by setting global standards on AI.

However, especially after Brexit, the EU fell behind the US and China in virtually every category and loses even further ground despite the current AI measures on EU and Member State level.



The ambition: Establish a third way on Al



Ethical and trustworthy

Al Act is based on a high-level framework of general principles that promotes a coherent human-centric European approach to ethical and trustworthy Al, fully in line with the EU Charta of Fundamental Rights as well as the values on which the Union is founded.



Risk-based approach

The regulatory intervention depends on the type of risk incurred by the use of the AI system. The AI Act therefore concentrates on certain prohibited uses cases as well as on truly high-risk AI systems. For all remaining AI systems on the Internal Market self-regulation is sufficient.



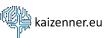
Safety and liability

Certain elements of 2nd wave AI systems such as opacity or autonomy make it necessary to rethink the existing product safety and liability rules in order to guarantee that new risks are adequately addressed without hampering innovation in AI.



International cooperation

The regulatory approach of the EU is aligned with concepts, terminologies and standards that were introduced by international organizations. Creating a European approach to AI does not mean that the access to the Internal Market for non-European actors and their AI systems is restricted. They have complete and equal access as long as they are not at odds with European values and principles.



The risk: an increasing AI gap



EU companies hesitate to invest and to develop AI as they find the field too risky and complain that the escalating legal uncertainty does not allow them to plan ahead. Most EU companies became deployers that buy an AI end product from US Tech cooperations.



Al systems proved to be too dynamic for a NLF law. Frequent substantial modifications, new risk categories, and more than one intended purpose are forcing companies to regularly perform conformity assessments and review if the still fulfil the high-risk obligations.



Even though third-party conformity assessments are not mandatory for most high-risk AI systems, companies do not feel confident and draw back on expensive certification and third-party auditing. Big 4 accounting firm as well as law firms are the big winners of the AI Act.



Neither the EU nor Member States manage to build up a sufficiently working governance system. The lack of talent and investments can be named as key reasons but also the ongoing power struggles between new and existing mechanism is problematic.



The clock is ticking

December 2024

According to Art 113(a), the prohibitions in Article 5 become applicable within the EU.

Summer 2026

According to Art 113, the vast majority of all Articles of the Al Act, in particular the rules for high-risk Al systems listed in ANNEX III, become applicable within the EU.

Summer

Winter

2025

2026

2027

May - August 2024

The EU AI Act is published in the Official Journal of the EU and enters into force after 20 days.

Summer 2025

According to Art 113(b), the GPAI provisions in Art 51 ff become applicable within the EU.

Summer 2027

According to Art 113(c), the provisions for high-risk AI systems listed in ANNEX I become applicable within the EU.



Stakeholders: call to action!



Help CEN/CENELEC to develop horizontal as well as vertical harmonized technical standards in time.

Join Regulatory Sandboxes

Enter in a close dialogue with national authorities, make the Al Act compliance easier and benefit both from regulatory learning.

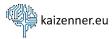


Share your expertise

The Commission relies on your input for guidelines (Art 96), the code of practice (Art 56), and DA/IAs. You could also join the Scientific Panel (Art 68) or Advisory Forum (Art 67).

Identify & motivate AI talent

European and national governance bodies need to attract AI experts but those persons can often earn much more in large Tech companies.



EU politics 1: The new Al Office

Strong leadership

A well-respected leadership duo that combines deep institutional knowledge with cutting-edge Al expertise manages the day-to-day operations and navigates the complex waters of international cooperation on Al.

Agile working

Having a start-up culture, the Al
Office encourages creative
thinking by project-based teams in
experimental workspaces.
Compared to regular Commission
directorates, it emphasises
operational agility and minimal
bureaucracy, allowing employees
to define their ways of working.

0penness

The operational philosophy of the AI Office is grounded in accessibility and transparency. Regular exchanges with other DGs and EU institutions as a general principle. Specialised staffers guarantee that stakeholders are heavily involved and consulted.



agile, cooperative, and effective.

Broad Structure

The new directorate reflects the multi-dimensional nature of Al with five specialised units:

- A 'Trust & Safety Unit' that implements the AI Act and sets up the ecosystem of trust.
- An 'Innovation & Excellence Unit' that incentivises the development and deployment of Al made in the EU.
- An 'International Cooperation Unit' that positions the EU as a leader in global Al policy.
- A 'Research & Foresight Unit' that acts as a think tank and provides insights on market trends and emerging risks.
- A 'Technical Support Unit' that helps with advice and support.

Al expertise

The hiring process values skills and experiences higher than formal qualifications. It aims to incorporate a high number of technical and senior AI experts in the AI Office by offering flexible work arrangements, competitive salaries, and significant freedoms in how to fulfil the assignments.



EU politics 2: A comprehensive Al strategy

4. Ecosystem of excellence

Develop more AI talent and make better use of the excellent AI research community within the EU.

3. Digital green infrastructure

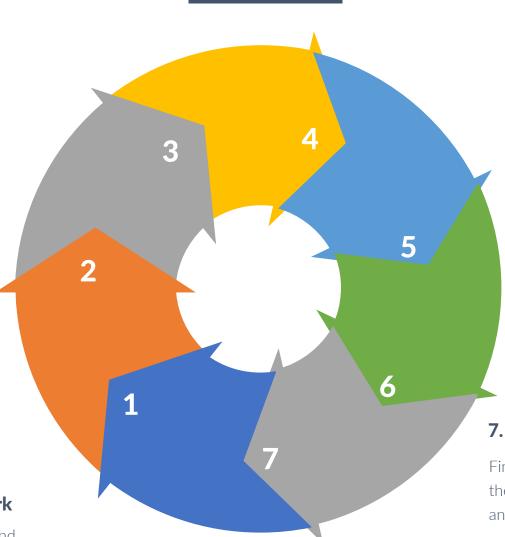
Improve connectivity and invest in better computing power. Build up a sustainable and reliable digital infrastructure.

2. Complete the DSM

Streamline the national Al Strategies. Remove market barriers. Establish a genuine level playing field.

1. Favourable regulatory framework

Improve EU law making, governance and enforcement. Establish a coherent legal framework for AI. Solve the EU data challenge.



5. Ecosystem of trust

Inform and empower EU citizens. Establish a reliable and secure egovernance and e-health system.

6. Industry strategy

Increase the strategic planning and investments in Al. Better support SMEs and start ups. Form an alliance with like minded partners on the international stage.

7. Security and military deterrence

Find the right balance for using Al in law enforcement and the military. Counter cybersecurity threats by building up an effective cyber defence structure.



Let's keep in touch!





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