

# EU AI Act – a model to follow?

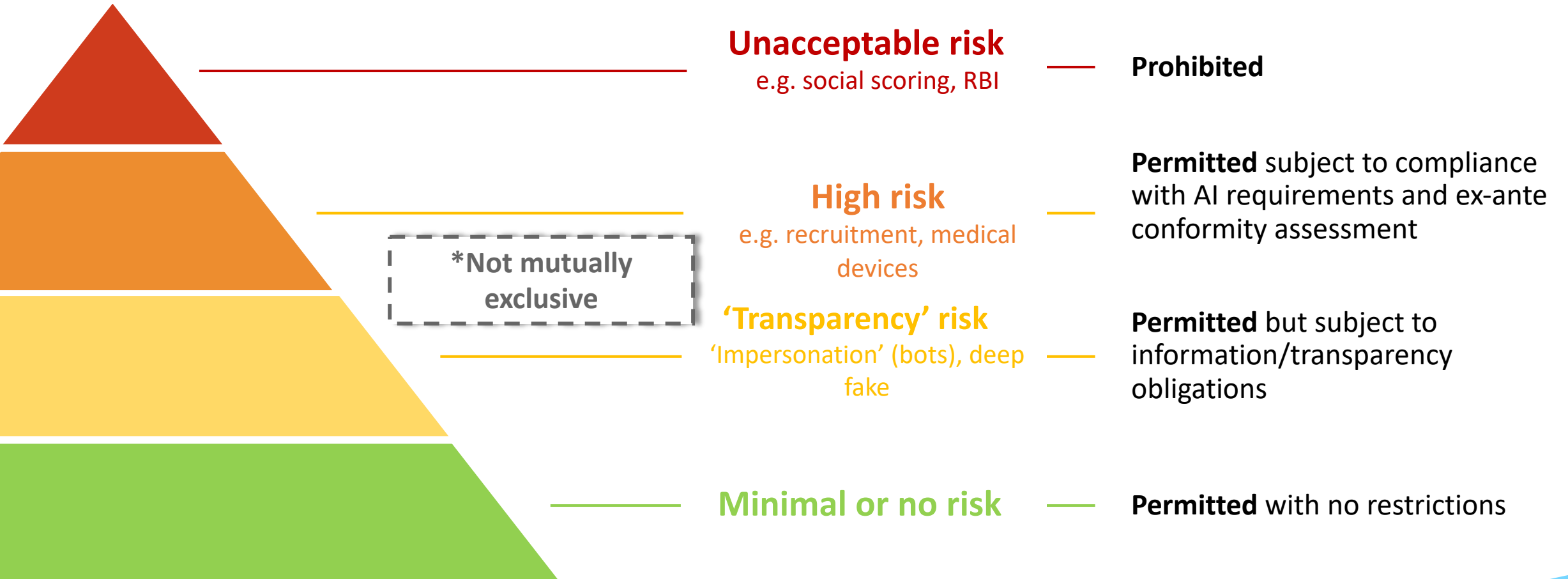
**Gabriele Mazzini**

**Architect & Lead Author AI Act proposal, advisor, MIT affiliate**

DigitalSwitzerland  
August 22, 2025

# Overview of its key provisions

# Risk-based approach (AI systems)



# General Purpose AI models (aka, foundation models)

## All GPAI (lower tier)

- Technical documentation (incl. computational resources & energy consumption)
- Information downstream
- Copyright (policy & detailed summary of content)

## GPAI with systemic risks (higher tier)

- Evaluation of high-impact capabilities
  - at least  $10^{25}$  FLOPs
  - designated by the AI Office (e.g. based on certain criteria)
- All obligations from the lower tier PLUS
  - risk assessment and mitigation
  - incident reporting
  - adequate level of cybersecurity

- **Open-source models** in scope, except technical documentation and transparency as regards lower tier
- **Codes of Practice** for demonstrating compliance



# Evolution

# EU Institutional architecture/process

**LEGISLATION**



**Commission proposal  
21 Apr 2021**



**Council General approach  
6 Dec 2022**



**Parliament position  
14 June 2023**

# Legislative process



- ▶ **2019 political mandate**
- ▶ **Trust as enabler ('preventative')**
- ▶ **Risk-based approach:** 99% product legislation (harmonized standards) + simple rules prohibited AI (except RBI) and limited risk AI
- ▶ **Relatively clean relationship with other pieces of EU law**



- ▶ **Articulated set-up:** IMCO & LIBE (co-lead), JURI, ITRE, CULT
- ▶ **General trends:**

- broader scope (AI definition, prohibited AI, high-risk AI)
- more emphasis on safeguards and protection of rights, including privacy
- stricter rules on national security and law enforcement
- more articulated governance
- regulation of foundation models



- ▶ **Telecom WP:** PT, SI, FR, CZ Presidencies
- ▶ **General trends:**
  - narrower scope (AI definition, prohibited AI, high-risk AI)
  - more emphasis on innovation
  - legal certainty and simplified compliance
  - national security and law enforcement

# Legislative process



Commission proposal:  
21 Apr 2021



Council  
General approach:  
6 Dec 2022



Parliament position:  
14 June 2023

Dialogues: four meetings July-Dec 2023

8 Dec 2023 – political agreement announced

July 12, 2024: publication in EU Official Journal  
August 1, 2024: entry into force



OpenAI ChatGPT launched on **November 30, 2022**



Call to pause AI training/research on  
systems more powerful than GPT-4 on  
**March 22, 2023**



Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development  
and Use of Artificial Intelligence on **October 30, 2023**

# Overall assessment

# Increased 'complexification' of legal framework

- ▶ **Expanded scope**: more prohibitions, more high-risk
- ▶ From 'AI applications' (AI system) to 'AI models' (notably **foundation models**)
- ▶ More articulated/complex **governance** at EU and national level
- ▶ Increased obligations on **deployers**
- ▶ Relationship with **other EU law**
- ▶ **GPAI rules**: vague, essential details left to CoP
- ▶ Needed legal clarity and consistency **missing**
- ▶ Overall 144 p. in EU Official Journal

# Complexity does not stop at legislative level

## ► Over 70 action/follow-up items for Commission or under Commission oversight (on top of legislative/administrative work to be done by MS)

- Harmonized standards: requirements for high-risk & GPAI obligations
- 12 empowerment for delegated acts + 12 empowerment for implementing act
- 9 guidelines (incl. on prohibited, high-risk, transparency AI, definition of AI) + 5 templates (incl. FRIA, summary of content) + Codes of practice (CoP) for GPAI

## ► Status

- Guidelines on prohibited AI – 135 p.
- Guidelines on AI definition – 13 p.
- GPAI CoP – (Safety & security, Transparency & Copyright) – over 50 p.
- GPAI Guidelines – 35 p.
- Detailed summary of content – 13 p.

# Current state of affairs



# After August 1, 2024

## The future of European competitiveness: Report by Mario Draghi



Mario Draghi – former European Central Bank President and one of Europe's great economic minds – was tasked by the European Commission to prepare a report of his personal vision on the future of European competitiveness.

The report looks at the challenges faced by the industry and companies in the Single Market. It outlines how Europe will no longer be able to rely on many of the factors that have supported growth in the past and lays out a clear diagnosis and provides concrete recommendations to put Europe onto a different trajectory.

[Download the report](#)



Speech focused on AI leadership, AI race, with AI Act mentioned once (trust and harmonization)

*“At the same time, I know, we have to make it easier, we have to cut red tape. And we will..”*



*“excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off” - “international regulatory regimes that foster the creation of AI technology, rather than strangles it. We need our European friends to look to this new frontier with optimism rather than trepidation”*

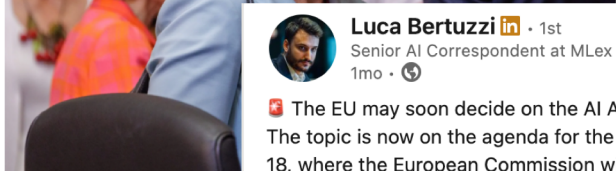
Stop-the-clock

NEWS > TECHNOLOGY

## Europe’s top CEOs ask EU to pause AI Act

Mistral, ASML and Airbus CEOs add to the pressure on the AI Act.

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Henna Virkkunen a déclaré cette semaine que l'œuvre de l'AI Act d'ici la fin de l'été sera nécessaire à son application.

This article is also available in: [French](#)

JULY 4, 2025 5:09 AM CET

Luca Bertuzzi

Senior AI Correspondent at MLex

1mo

The EU may soon decide on the AI Act’s “stop-the-clock” mechanism. The topic is now on the agenda for the next European AI Board meeting on Sept. 18, where the European Commission will present delay options related to the legal requirements for high-risk AI systems. Member states are expected to provide political direction, which could shape what’s included in the upcoming digital omnibus package. All the key details (as always) on [MLex](#).

Decision to pause EU AI Act may come at next AI Board meeting

By Luca Bertuzzi

July 4, 2025, 15:11 GMT | Insight

The EU may decide on Sept. 18 whether it should delay parts of the AI Act’s application timeline, using a mechanism that allows the institutions to postpone rules under certain circumstances. Momentum for a pause has grown following calls from several national governments, including Czechia, Denmark and Germany, as well as a push from large European companies such as Mistral, [ASML](#) and Airbus.



The world-first rules to tackle artificial intelligence risks were agreed in late 2023 and will gradually come into effect over the next year and a half. | Kirill Kudryavtsev/AFP via Getty Images

JUNE 6, 2025 3:19 PM CET  
BY MATHIEU POLLET AND PIETER HAECK

Exclusive June 30, 2025

## Exclusive: Startups and VCs call on EU to pause AI Act rollout

Synthesia, Lovable and Harry Stebbings among signatories warning startups could ditch Europe

Martin Coulter and Maya Dharampal-Hornby 3 min read

### EU sticks with timeline for AI rules

By Foo Yun Chee  
July 4, 2025 1:20 PM GMT+2 · Updated July 4, 2025



A copy of “The European Union Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act” on display during the AI & Big Data Expo 2025 at the Olympia, in London, Britain, February 5, 2025. REUTERS/Isabel Infantes/File Photo [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)

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	ASML Holding NV	Follow
	Meta Platforms Inc	Follow

BRUSSELS, July 4 (Reuters) - The European Union’s landmark rules on artificial intelligence will be rolled out according to the legal timeline in the legislation, the European Commission said on Friday, dismissing calls from some companies and countries for a pause.

Google owner Alphabet ([GOOGL](#)) , Facebook owner Meta ([META](#)) and other U.S. companies as well as European businesses such as Mistral and ASML ([ASML](#)) have in recent days urged the Commission to delay the AI Act by years.

# United States



*“The United States is in a race to achieve **global dominance** in artificial intelligence (AI). **Whoever has the largest AI ecosystem will set global AI standards** and reap broad economic and military benefits” (Introduction, p. 1)*

*“To maintain global leadership in AI, **America’s private sector must be unencumbered by bureaucratic red tape.** [...] **AI is far too important to smother in bureaucracy at this early stage**, whether at the state or Federal level. The Federal government should not allow AI-related Federal funding to be directed toward states with burdensome AI regulations that waste these funds (2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of Action Plan, p. 3)*



## Chinese premier calls for early formation of global AI governance framework

Updated: July 26, 2025 19:40 Xinhua



Chinese Premier Li Qiang addresses the opening ceremony of the 2025 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai, east China, July 26, 2025. [Photo/Xinhua]

SHANGHAI, July 26 -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Saturday said the international community should place greater emphasis on the joint governance of artificial intelligence (AI), calling for the early formation of a global framework and rules that have broad consensus to guide the development and use of AI.

"China attaches great importance to global AI governance, and has been actively promoting multilateral and bilateral cooperation with a willingness to offer more Chinese solutions," Li said while addressing the opening ceremony of the 2025 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai.

Li said that the Chinese government proposes the creation of a global AI cooperation organization.

He said that rapid progress is being made in fields such as large language models, multimodal large models and embodied AI, propelling AI development toward greater efficiency and higher intelligence.

Acknowledging that AI has begun to empower various industries and enter households, emerging as a new engine for economic growth, Li said the risks and challenges posed by AI have sparked widespread concern.

There is an urgent need to foster further consensus on how to strike a balance between development and security, he noted.

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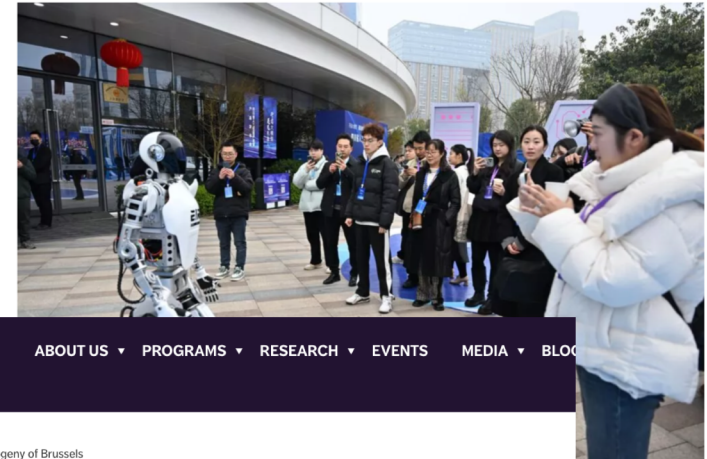
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POLITICS

## Less regulation, more innovation in Japan's AI governance

Published: 21 May 2025  
Reading Time: 5 mins



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Published February 2025

## Korea's New AI Law: Not a Progeny of Brussels

By: [Hosuk Lee-Makiyama](#) [Jimmyn Parc](#) [Claudia Lozano](#)

Subjects: [Digital Economy](#) [Far-East](#)



# **How should we think about AI regulation today?**

# The 'challenges' of an AI Act (2019 >>>2025)

- ▶ **Regulating a technology** (or family of technologies)
  - ▶ General purpose technology (affecting entire economy & society)
  - ▶ Use is what matters (good or bad)
- ▶ **EU law already applicable**
  - ▶ **Parallel initiatives** (DSA, DMA, revised PLD, (AILD), GPSR, Machinery Regulation, cybersecurity, platform workers, consumer credit, ...)
- ▶ **Limited/nascent expertise**
- ▶ **Limited adoption/use cases in EU**
- ▶ **Aspiration of a Brussels effect (?)**
  - ▶ **Fast evolving**
  - ▶ **Not just a risk, but an opportunity/necessity** for competitiveness and productivity and ultimately European sovereignty
  - ▶ **Geopolitical evolutions**

# My original objectives & ideas

- ▶ Be **grounded & humble**
  - ▶ Act on the basis of **proper evidence**
    - ▶ Build on and leverage **what exists**
- ▶ Focus on the **overall framework & governance**
  - ▶ **Limited scope** in use cases, with **flexibility**
- ▶ Keep in mind **future implementation work/needs**

**One AI law cannot solve all AI related problems – ‘less is more’**

# Thank you!

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