

**Question for written answer E-002564/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Axel Voss (PPE), Svenja Hahn (Renew)

Subject: Definition of ‘AI system’: simple statistical techniques and alignment with international standards

The AI Act¹ aims to ensure that AI technologies are safe, ethical and transparent, while also fostering innovation to support economic and social progress within the EU. To achieve these objectives, the AI Act must provide legal certainty and foster trust. A key element in this regard is a clear definition of what constitutes an AI system.

Recital 12 of the AI Act requires that this definition be aligned with international standards. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has noted that AI systems are developed using machine learning or logic- or knowledge-based approaches, excluding simple statistical techniques such as linear or logistic regression.

Recital 12 also highlights that a key characteristic of an AI system is its capacity to infer, which must go beyond basic data processing by enabling learning, reasoning or modelling.

Article 96(1)(f) of the AI Act mandates the Commission to develop guidelines for the practical implementation of the definition of AI systems.

In this context:

1. How will the Commission ensure that the definition of AI systems in the EU aligns with the OECD definition (therefore excluding simple statistical techniques)?
2. Will the Commission explain in its upcoming guidelines the meaning of ‘basic data processing’ in relation to an AI system’s capacity to infer?

Submitted: 18.11.2024

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>).