

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003745/25
to the Commission
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(26 September 2025)

Subject: Opportunity to reform the Artificial Intelligence Act before 2026

Concerns have been raised that some of the provisions of the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act) ⁽¹⁾, particularly those on high-risk systems, could hinder innovation and deter investment. EU start-ups and SMEs already face higher compliance costs than their global competitors and experts warn that the EU risks missing out on transformative benefits in areas such as education, healthcare and transport — harming competitiveness and limiting potential gains for citizens ⁽²⁾.

The principal drafter of the AI Act, Gabriele Mazzini, has himself publicly expressed doubts about the current framework and called for major revisions ⁽³⁾, while Mario Draghi has urged a suspension of the high-risk provisions and broader reform of the digital acquis ⁽⁴⁾. Importantly, the AI Act's high-risk requirements will not apply until August 2026. This transitional period provides an opportunity for the EU to reflect and act.

1. Does the Commission intend to review and reform the high-risk categories mentioned in the AI Act before their entry into force in 2026?
2. Will it consider suspending or reclassifying certain obligations if evidence shows they harm competitiveness and innovation?
3. How will the Commission ensure that the AI framework does not put EU businesses at a structural disadvantage compared with global competitors?

Submitted: 26.9.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(17 November 2025)

The Commission recognises the need to foster innovation and encourage investment in artificial intelligence (AI) in Europe.

Therefore, the AI Act ⁽¹⁾ aims to promote innovation and the uptake of AI, while ensuring a high level of protection of health, safety and fundamental rights, including democracy and the rule of law.

The AI Act is designed as a future-proof regulation that is fit for the rapid pace of technological development, as well as the potential changes in the use of AI systems and emerging risks.

In order to ensure that the rules remain relevant and effective, the AI Act foresees regular evaluation and review of the AI Act by the Commission.

Even before specific provisions apply, such as the rules for high-risk AI systems, the Commission is tasked, under Article 112(1) AI Act, to assess the need for amendment of the list of high-risk AI systems set out in Annex III every year. The Commission is currently working on the first report under this provision.

As part of the Commission's simplification agenda, the Commission is analysing the EU's digital rulebook to see if it fully delivers on its objectives, which will lead to the Digital Omnibus. The AI Act is part of this analysis.

In order to foster AI innovation, the Commission adopted, on 9 April 2025, the AI Continent Action Plan ⁽²⁾. Complementing the Plan, the Commission published, on 8 October 2025, its overarching Apply AI Strategy ⁽³⁾ that aims to foster the adoption and integration of AI in 10 key European industries and the public sector.

The Apply AI Strategy encourages an AI first policy where AI is considered as a potential solution whenever organisations make strategic or policy decisions, taking into careful consideration the benefits and the risks of the technology.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj> (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>)).

² <https://www.bruegel.org/analysis/european-union-ai-act-premature-or-precocious-regulation>.

³ <https://www.nzz.ch/technologie/hauptautor-des-ki-gesetzes-der-eu-packt-aus-ld.1899070>.

⁴ <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/09/16/draghi-calls-for-pause-to-ai-act-to-gauge-risks>.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ai-continent-action-plan>.

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/apply-ai>.