

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001210/26
to the Commission
Michael McNamara (Renew)
(24 March 2026)**

Subject: Compliance costs of the AI Act

The cost of compliance with the AI Act ⁽¹⁾ is estimated to be between EUR 320,000 and EUR 600,000, for entities under the high-risk classification ⁽²⁾.

1. What compliance costs were estimated by the 2021 study, requested by the Commission, to support the impact assessment of the regulatory requirements prior to the AI Act?
2. Does the Commission or European AI Office have a more recent or authoritative estimate of compliance costs regarding the high-risk provisions?

Submitted: 24.3.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(27 April 2026)**

The figure of EUR 319 000, quoted from the support study to the impact assessment ⁽¹⁾, refers to the exceptional case of a provider of a high-risk AI system without a quality management system (QMS) in place.

As such, it does not provide a representative indication of costs for providers that already have a QMS in place, which will be the case for many providers as most high-risk AI systems will be covered by product legislation in Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 (AI Act) and a QMS is usually already required under this existing product safety legislation ⁽²⁾.

The figure of EUR 600 000, which is claimed to be the total cost of conformity assessment compliance under the AI Act, is based on the estimate of EUR 319 000 plus additional costs that are derived from a survey of 23 organisations' opinions across different sectors, including defence ⁽³⁾. However, this study is based on a qualitative survey of perceptions and does not provide evidence on the cost of conformity assessment.

Based on preliminary estimates by conformity assessment bodies, the cost of compliance with the essential requirements of the AI Act for high-risk AI systems in products in Annex I — which already undertake conformity assessment under sectorial legislation — would increase by 15-20% compared to current conformity assessment costs.

Applying the figures from the support study to the AI Act impact assessment that estimate the cost for upgrading of an existing QMS for a product to cover AI Act compliance — which estimates costs in the range of EUR 159 000 — 202 000 — the resulting compliance costs that can be attributed to the AI Act would more realistically fall between EUR 23 850 and 40 400, and not EUR 600 000.

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>).

² <https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/partner/article/why-the-ai-act-could-cost-billions-to-europes-innovators>

⁽¹⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-supporting-impact-assessment-ai-regulation>.

⁽²⁾ List of Union harmonisation legislation listed in Annex I of the AI Act, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ Kilian, R., Jäck, L. and Ebel, D., *European AI Standard — Technical Standardisation and Implementation Challenges under the EU AI Act*, February 2025.