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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.7.2026)

The guidelines on prohibited AI practices¹ and on AI system definition² were adopted in February 2025. The guidelines on the implementation of transparency obligations³ and on the classification of high-risk AI systems⁴ were opened for public consultation. Other guidelines listed in Article 96 of the AI Act⁵ are in preparation⁶.

Besides, the framework for AI regulatory sandboxes as set out in the AI Act and in forthcoming implementing acts, Member States are supported in the implementation of AI regulatory sandboxes through tools developed in the context of the AI Board. These include templates (such as for the application form to access such sandboxes) and a guidebook that consider the specific needs and circumstances of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Workforce of SMEs will also benefit from other EU-funded projects, such as the AI Skills Academy, which will support AI upskilling and reskilling in key sectors such as cultural and creative industries by promoting on-the-job training and by gathering AI courses per sector and job-profile.

The Commission underlines the important role of the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) in supporting the digital transformation and AI uptake of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. As AI experience centres, EDIHs are expected to serve as first points of contact for businesses to provide initial support and practical guidance on the AI Act, and to link SMEs to other initiatives such as testing and experimentation facilities and AI factories.

The AI Office will, in cooperation with Member States, continue to support a coordinated approach to the implementation of the AI Act, including as regards AI regulatory sandboxes in the context of the AI Board and forthcoming implementing acts.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-prohibited-artificial-intelligence-ai-practices-defined-ai-act>.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-ai-system-definition-facilitate-first-ai-acts-rules-application>.

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/draft-guidelines-implementation-transparency-obligations-certain-ai-systems-under-article-50-ai-act>.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/draft-commission-guidelines-classification-high-risk-ai-systems>.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689.

⁶ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/supporting-implementation-ai-act-clear-guidelines>.