

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003017/26
to the Commission
Fernand Kartheiser (NI)
(16 July 2026)**

Subject: AI ethics

Artificial intelligence opens up many opportunities, though it brings with it new risks for our societies.

The ethical aspect of the relationship between humans and AI must be at the forefront of technical and legal concerns. Several documented cases show that AI has been able to manipulate people, in order to achieve an expected result.

1. Does the Commission intend to propose legislation to ensure that decisions made by AI always remain subject to human oversight?
2. Will it be established that humans will always be held responsible for decisions made with the help of AI?
3. How can legislation ensure that AI respects the common good and is free from any political or ideological bias?

Submitted: 16.7.2026

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

On 1 August 2024, Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 (the AI Act) ⁽¹⁾ entered into force. The AI Act establishes harmonised rules to ensure a consistent, high level of protection of health, safety and fundamental rights in relation to AI in the EU.

The AI Act follows a risk-based approach. AI systems considered particularly harmful or abusive, such as AI systems that deploy subliminal or purposefully manipulative or deceptive techniques or those that exploit vulnerabilities due to age, disability, or a specific social or economic situation, are prohibited.

AI systems intended to be used in certain contexts which pose risks, amongst others, to health, safety or fundamental rights are classified as high-risk and subject to strict requirements, including human oversight and data quality enabling the detection, prevention and mitigation of bias.

As regards the potential for political or ideological biases, providers of high-risk AI systems are required to detect, prevent and mitigate such biases if they are likely to affect the health, safety or fundamental rights of persons.

Finally, certain AI systems are subject to transparency obligations, such as AI chatbots interacting with natural persons and AI systems that generate or manipulate content.

The AI Act is designed as safety legislation, meaning that AI is treated as a product and only safe products are placed on the market or put into service; the AI Act does not establish a liability framework. Human oversight is a compliance requirement, not a liability rule, for providers of high-risk AI systems.

The liability rules for products, including AI, are regulated by Member State law, which is required to transpose the Product Liability Directive ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202402853.