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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.10.2026)

The European AI Office was established within the Commission pursuant to Article 64 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 (AI Act)¹. Its competences are defined by EU legislation, and any extension of its responsibilities requires a corresponding legal basis adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. This approach was followed in Regulation (EU) 2026/1744 (Digital Omnibus on AI)², which amended the AI Act to extend the Office's oversight to certain additional AI systems. Such changes are therefore subject to the ordinary EU legislative process and the democratic scrutiny accompanying it.

The AI Act does not transfer general responsibility for fundamental rights from Member States to the AI Office. National market surveillance authorities are responsible for the supervision and enforcement of most AI Act obligations, while the European AI Board, composed of Member State representatives, supports consistent implementation. The framework also provides for cooperation with national authorities responsible for protecting fundamental rights.

The Commission recognises that cumulative regulatory requirements can create costs, particularly for SMEs. The Digital Omnibus on AI therefore introduces measures aimed at reducing administrative burdens, while maintaining safeguards for safety and fundamental rights. The Commission will continue to apply the principles of proportionality and better regulation when developing future initiatives.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act).

² Regulation (EU) 2026/1744 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 July 2026 amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 as regards the simplification of the implementation of harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Digital Omnibus on AI).