

Is Digital Regulation Under **Attack?**

George Metakides

April 1

Digital Humanism Panel

YES! From several angles



- **Ideological** : Ultra-liberal (no Harm principle)
- See also “Enhanced Games”

- **Corporate** self-interest /Profit (e.g. Zuckerberg decrying “censorship”)
- “Regulation stifles innovation” (false dilemma)

- **Geopolitical**
- “ EU an atrocity created to screw us”
- “Regulation used to “tax” our companies”
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/defending-american-companies-and-innovators-from-overseas-extortion-and-unfair-fines-and-penalties/>



↳ PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Defending American Companies and Innovators From Overseas Extortion and Unfair Fines and Penalties

Key targets attacked (DMA, DSA, AI Act)

- **DMA** : . Under the Digital Markets Act, Brussels can impose penalties of up to 10% of global turnover, meaning billions of dollars.
- US President has called EU penalties "overseas extortion".
- Fines related respectively to [App Store rules](#) and Meta's so-called [pay or consent](#) model are expected to be minimal (FT)
- **DSA** : X in breach (as a VLOP obliged to provide transparency of content moderation, which Musk decries as censorship)
- Pressure (including by MS) to minimize and/or defer fines

AI Act : Code of Practice

Human Rights are Universal, Not Optional: Don't Undermine the EU AI Act with a Faulty Code of Practice

Tech News / MAR 28, 2025

Following "intense lobbying," the European Commission is considering making key sections of the EU's AI Act optional rather than mandatory, according to the [Financial Times](#). At issue is the draft "[code of practice](#)" that would guide implementation of rules for powerful AI systems.

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It is not only regulation that is under attack

- MAGA/Trump populism and Big Tech anti-regulation
- Converge on their rejection of Liberal Democracy
- Threatening the fundamental principles of democratic institutions
- Transforming the US, the “West” and the entire world order



Our open letter and beyond

- Open letter supports current pushback against attacks (EP and more)
- Depoliticize without retreating (March 18 decision on Google/Apple DMA)
- Reach out to like-minded colleagues and organizations worldwide
- Brazil, S. Korea, India, Japan and other EU Digital Dialogue countries
- Anticipate. The “wait and see” time is over.
- Realize that digital sovereignty without defense sovereignty is an illusion
- Urge the implementation of the Letta/Draghi proposals for innovation
- Try to learn to explain the need for all this better to young people
- The classrooms of today are the societies of tomorrow