

A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE EU AI ACT

Recent Artificial Intelligence developments have showcased both the potential for AI applications that are beneficial to society and the need to provide a safety shield for citizens and democracy from biased information, cybercrime and much more. The central aim of the EU AI Act is to provide such a safety shield in the form of an enforceable regulation in the same spirit as prior regulations that have ensured safer food, safer medicine and safer aviation.

The AI Act now finds itself at crossroads as the so-called trilogue among the European Commission, the European Parliament and the 27 Member States has entered its final crucial stage. There is a clear danger that far beyond reasonable, negotiable modifications, critical parts of the AI Act which provide guardrails for the use of powerful AI foundation models are rendered unenforceable at the insistence of some Member States. This would leave self-regulation by a small number of large powerful companies as the only alternative safeguard.

Self-regulation failed democratic societies when social media were nascent. We believe that it will fail again in the case of AI and for the same reasons.

Time is running out and the window of opportunity for adoption of an effective AI Act is closing. Europe must not miss this opportunity for its own sake and for the sake of the entire world.

We, the signatories of this statement, support the EU AI Act as proposed by the European Commission and supported by the European Parliament.

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