

Future planning by the EU with the establishment of a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) office

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On 24 January 2024, the European Commission established the European Artificial Intelligence Office, in anticipation of the forthcoming harmonised EU rules on Artificial Intelligence (AI) which are contained in the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act.

How will it operate?

The European Artificial Intelligence Office is integrated within the existing administrative framework of the Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology. Importantly, this new office will not impinge upon the existing powers and competencies already vested in national authorities, nor will it alter the current distribution of responsibilities among various EU bodies.

The office is tasked with a multifaceted mission that includes the pivotal role of implementing and enforcing the forthcoming Artificial Intelligence Act. The overarching goal is to create an environment where AI can thrive while upholding a high level of protection for public interests as enshrined in EU law.

A key aspect of the office's mandate will involve contributing to strategic international AI initiatives. Within the EU, the office will work to support the accelerated development and deployment of trustworthy AI systems and applications, with an emphasis on innovation and the fostering of beneficial societal and economic impacts.

In terms of operational duties, the office will develop methodologies and benchmarks for evaluating AI models, monitor AI systems for compliance and emergent risks, and investigate potential rule breaches. It will also facilitate the exchange of information and collaboration between national authorities and establish platforms and databases pertinent to AI.

What is also in its remit?

Beyond its regulatory and monitoring functions, the office will engage in consultation with AI providers and the scientific community, with a view to advancing best practices and developing codes of conduct. It is charged with fostering cross-sectoral collaboration within the Commission and ensuring that AI technologies are employed as transformative tools in line with EU policies.

When it comes to international affairs, the office will not only advocate for the responsible use of AI but will also contribute to international regulatory and governance cooperation, supporting the implementation of international agreements on AI rules.

For more information on this topic please contact a member of our team via their contact details below.

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