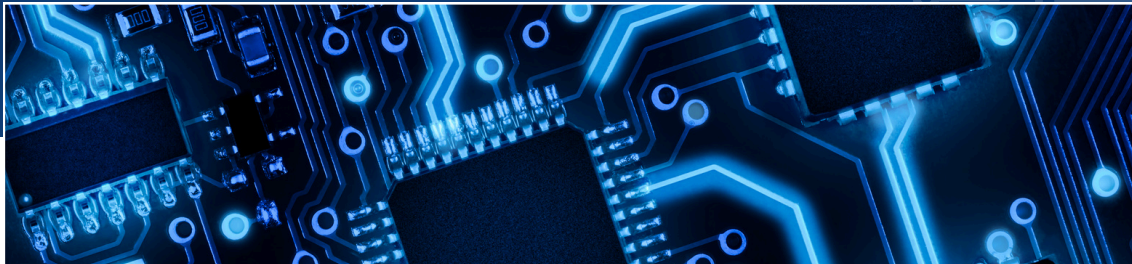


# Artificial Intelligence & Technology In International Law

News Update | February 2025



## Updates to the EU AI Act: AI Literacy & Prohibited Practices

The AI Act, which took effect on August 1, 2024, will see the first two chapters, focusing on AI literacy and prohibited AI practices, become applicable on February 2, 2025. Under Chapter I, businesses that provide or deploy AI systems must ensure mandatory AI literacy for their workforce and partners, requiring training on the potential opportunities and risks of AI. Chapter II outlines practices deemed illegal, such as using subliminal or manipulative techniques, exploiting vulnerabilities, inferring emotions in workplaces or educational settings, and harvesting facial recognition data from internet images or CCTV footage. Failure to comply with these prohibitions can result in fines up to EUR 35 million or 7% of global annual turnover, while additional sanctions for non-compliance with AI literacy may also be imposed by EU member states.

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## Global Declaration on Ethical AI Gains Momentum at 2025 Paris Summit

During the AI Action Summit in Paris on February 10 and 11, 2025, 60 nations—including France, China, and India—signed a declaration on “inclusive and sustainable” AI that prioritizes ethics, transparency, safety, and reducing AI’s energy footprint. While the UK and US declined to participate, citing national security and governance complexities, the overall support shows the global commitment to responsible AI progress.

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## EU’s €200 Billion InvestAI Initiative at 2025 Summit

At the AI Summit, the EU revealed InvestAI, a plan to mobilize €200 billion in AI-focused investments. Under this initiative is a €20 billion fund dedicated to establishing four AI gigafactories across Europe, designed to power the development of cutting-edge AI models for medicine and science. These factories will be equipped with the latest AI chips and form a key part of the EU’s broader AI strategy. Alongside these announcements, the European Commission outlined its intention to form a European AI Research Council and initiate an “Apply AI” program to accelerate AI adoption across sectors.

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## **Singapore Introduced AI Governance Safety Measures to Address Generative AI and Bias**

On 11th February 2025, Singapore introduced a set of AI governance safety initiatives to ensure responsible application of AI technologies. These include the Global AI Assurance Pilot, focused on establishing best practices for testing generative AI; the Singapore AI Safety Red Teaming Challenge Evaluation Report, which scrutinizes LLM safeguards against cultural and linguistic biases in the Asia-Pacific region; and a collaborative study with Japan evaluating large language models (LLMs) across multiple languages.

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## **EC Draft Clarifies Newly Effective Bans on AI Practices**

On 4th February, 2025 European Commission released draft guidelines on how to interpret and enforce the AIA's newly effective prohibitions as of 2 February 2025. The document focuses on curbing subliminal or deceptive AI techniques, social scoring, emotion recognition in educational and work settings, the creation of large-scale facial recognition databases, and the handling of sensitive biometric data. By providing this extensive framework, the Commission aims to support compliant and ethical AI applications across the European Union.

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## Illinois Proposes AI Safety Bill Mandating Comprehensive Risk Protocols

On 18 February 2025, Illinois introduced an AI Safety and Security Protocol Bill aimed at setting stringent guidelines for the development and deployment of AI models. The bill requires developers to draft, implement, and publicly disclose detailed safety protocols that cover risk management, testing, and security measures. It also mandates the publication of quarterly risk assessment reports and annual third-party audits, alongside provisions for redacting sensitive information and protecting whistleblowers. With potential fines reaching up to \$1 million and options for injunctions against dangerous practices, this initiative now moves to the Rules Committee for further legislative review.

[Click Here to see the Bill](#)

## European Parliament Research Service Shares Insights on the AI Act-GDPR Interplay

On 26 February 2025, the European Parliament Research Service released a briefing that delves into the intersection of the AI Act and the GDPR. The report explains that while the AI Act allows the use of sensitive data in high-risk systems for bias detection and correction, this is strictly limited to what is absolutely necessary and must comply with GDPR safeguards—such as explicit consent, data minimisation, and robust cybersecurity measures. Highlighting the challenge of balancing innovation with privacy, the briefing warns that GDPR's strict controls may hinder the extensive deployment of AI across sectors, suggesting that further regulatory guidance or even reforms might be needed to resolve these tensions while ensuring protection against algorithmic discrimination.

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## European Commission Issues Fresh Guidance to Clarify AI System Criteria Under the AI Act

On 6 February 2025, the European Commission released non-binding guidelines to help identify whether software qualifies as an AI system under the AI Act. This publication builds on earlier directives regarding prohibited AI practices, complementing the Act's newly effective rules—such as AI literacy requirements and limited bans on high-risk AI. While the guidelines are designed to evolve in response to real-world developments and emerging use cases, they aim to provide clarity and assist providers, developers, and stakeholders in complying with the legal framework. The goal is to balance innovation with the protection of health, safety, and fundamental rights throughout the European Union.

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## EU AI Office Publishes Living Repository for AI Literacy Initiatives

On 4 February 2025, the European Commission introduced a repository illustrating how AI Pact signatories are fulfilling Article 4 of the AI Act—effective since 2 February 2025—which mandates that providers and deployers of AI systems ensure adequate AI literacy for relevant personnel. Updated on a rolling basis, this resource includes various practices (ranging from fully deployed to planned) without implying any formal endorsement or compliance assurance by the Commission.

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## Switzerland Plans to Integrate Council of Europe AI Convention for AI Regulation

Amid rapid AI advancements and public discourse, Switzerland is rethinking its regulatory landscape. Following a mandate issued in November 2023, the Federal Council reviewed a overview from DETEC and FDFA on 12 February 2025, outlining a strategy that focuses on innovation, safeguards fundamental rights, and enhances public trust. The plan calls for integrating the Council of Europe's AI Convention into Swiss law through targeted, sector-specific reforms, alongside non-binding industry measures. This initiative paves the way for a consultation draft due by the end of 2026 that aims to balance legal protection with the dynamic potential of AI.

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## UK Government Launches AI Playbook for Public Sector

On 10 February 2025, the UK Government introduced an AI Playbook aimed at guiding civil servants in the safe and effective use of artificial intelligence. The document, structured around 10 core principles, explains AI's potential, limitations, and risks, while offering advice on selecting, purchasing, and deploying AI solutions within government. It emphasizes strict adherence to data protection rules under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, mandates thorough impact assessments for high-risk data processing, and outlines clear accountability, liability, and intellectual property guidelines, alongside ensuring non-discrimination per the Equality Act 2010.

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## EU Drops the AI Liability Directive

On 7th February, 2025, the European Commission officially withdrew the AI Liability Directive (AILD) from its 2025 legislative roadmap, citing minimal prospects for consensus. Originally proposed in 2022 to streamline how AI-related harms would be handled, the directive was criticized for being abandoned under industry influence rather than refined as a post-harm safeguard complementing the AI Act. The Commission emphasized the motive to reduce regulatory burdens, and having simpler requirements under flagship rules like the AI Act and the Digital Services Act.

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## EDPB Boosts AI Enforcement, Sets Age Assurance Principles, and Advises on Athlete Data

In its February 2025 plenary session, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) broadened the existing ChatGPT task force to form a new AI enforcement group responsible for addressing AI-related privacy matters under the GDPR. This newly established task force will oversee urgent AI issues, creating a quick response team to help data protection authorities navigate the complexities of emerging AI technologies. Concurrently, the EDPB adopted a statement on age assurance, detailing ten principles for compliant data handling when verifying an individual's age. The Board is also collaborating with the European Commission on age verification as part of the Digital Services Act. Additionally, the EDPB issued recommendations for processing athletes' sensitive data under the 2027 World Anti-Doping Code, emphasizing purpose limitation, and transparency to safeguard personal information in anti-doping procedures.

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## UK Postpones AI Regulation Bill Amid Strategic US Alignment

UK officials have pushed back the launch of a long-anticipated AI regulation bill, now expected to be introduced in parliament by summer instead of the originally planned pre-Christmas rollout. Initially designed to require rigorous testing of major AI models by the UK's AI Security Institute, the proposal has been stalled considering that early regulation might decrease the nation's appeal to global AI investors. Insiders reveal that this delay is linked to a broader strategic shift influenced by recent US policy reversals, as the government seeks to mirror moves by the Trump administration.

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## CNIL Launches New GDPR Guidelines to Foster Responsible AI Innovation

On 7th February, The CNIL (France's Data Protection Authority) has introduced updated recommendations that use GDPR to promote AI while protecting personal data. These guidelines lay out practical steps for informing individuals when their data is used in training AI models, urging a flexible yet rigorous approach to principles like purpose specification, data minimization, and secure data retention. Recognizing the distinct challenges posed by AI systems especially when models incorporate or recall personal data, the CNIL advises developers to embed privacy safeguards from the design phase and to offer clear, risk-adjusted notifications to affected users.

[Read more here.](#)



## Virginia General Assembly approved Landmark AI Regulation

On 20 February 2025, the Virginia General Assembly approved HB 2094, the High-Risk Artificial Intelligence Developer and Deployer Act, which now awaits the Governor's signature. The bill targets businesses involved in high-risk AI by imposing obligations on developers to prevent algorithmic bias, disclose system limitations, and maintain comprehensive performance documentation, while deployers must enforce risk management strategies and conduct impact assessments. Notably, any major system modifications must be reported promptly within 90 days by developers and 30 days by deployers, with exemptions for sensitive information. Enforcement will be managed by the Virginia Attorney General, who can levy fines between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for non-compliance, with the legislation set to take effect on 1 July 2026 if signed.

[Click Here to See the Bill](#)

## UK Changes its AI Safety Institute to AI Security Institute, Considered the Security Impacts of AI.

The UK government has given its AI Safety Institute a new name and focus, rebranding it as the AI Security Institute. Announced by Peter Kyle at the Munich Security Conference, this change highlights a move away from just ensuring ethical AI practices toward dealing with the security threats posed by AI. The institute will now include a special team dedicated to investigating and stopping AI-driven crimes.

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