



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Permanent Representatives Committee

Subject: Global Artificial Intelligence governance - EU approach

Delegations will find in annex the background document with two guiding questions for an exchange of views on the EU approach to global Artificial Intelligence governance.

Global AI governance – EU approach

Background document

Coreper 26 June 2024

Context

Given the rapid development of artificial Intelligence and its impact on our societies, economies and ways of governing, discussions on how to address both its opportunities as well as its risks are taking place at international, EU and national level. Ensuring a balance between AI innovation and development on the one hand and its safety and impact on society on the other hand, became a global concern. Several international fora, such as UN, ITU, UNESCO, Council of Europe, OECD, AI Summit, G7, G20, are engaging in discussions and commitments on global AI governance and in February 2025, France will be hosting the AI Action Summit.

At the EU level, the adoption of the AI act is a significant milestone in EU history. This landmark law, the first of its kind in the world, addresses a global technological challenge that also creates opportunities for our societies and economies, promotes a trustworthy, human centric, responsible and secure AI. Alongside the AI Act, the AI Office is set up within the Commission. The AI Office will play a key role in the implementation of the AI Act. It will also work to foster research and innovation in trustworthy AI and play a leading role in international discussions by contributing to a strategic, coherent and effective Union approach to international initiatives, in coordination with Member States. Member States will contribute to this important work, among others through the AI Board that will advise the AI Office in relation to international matters on AI. In fulfilling its task, the Office should advocate the responsible stewardship of AI and promote the Union approach to trustworthy AI, contribute to international cooperation related to AI regulation and governance, as well as contribute to the implementation of international agreements on rules on AI, including by providing support to Member States¹.

In the recently adopted Council conclusions on digital and cybersecurity policies as well as in the Council conclusions on digital diplomacy from 2022 and 2023, the Council highlighted the EU's ambition to play a leading role globally in the digital transformation and digital governance. It also insisted on the need to ensure a proactive and coordinated approach to develop a stronger, more strategic, coherent and effective EU policy and action as well as to strengthen the EU's leadership in global digital affairs and the Team Europe approach, for example in relation to AI global governance.

In order to ensure a strong and coherent EU approach, promote a convergence between the different international fora and to identify priorities on global AI governance, the Belgian Presidency would like to hold a strategic debate on the EU priorities, objectives and approach in the international discussions on global AI governance, on the basis of the following guiding questions.

¹ Art. 7 of Commission Decision of 24 January 2024 establishing the European Artificial Intelligence Office.



Guiding questions

1. Considering the tasks of the AI Office, how do you envisage its position in the international governance architecture? How can we leverage the cooperation with national authorities and actors in order to reinforce the EU's role at global level?
2. What are the main objectives ahead for the international discussions on AI? How does this translate in the priorities and calendar for the next 12 months?

