

## Press Statement

# EAIF welcomes Landmark Agreement on AI Act

*Brussels, 10th December 2023*

*In a landmark agreement reached in the fifth and final trilogue, European lawmakers successfully concluded exhaustive negotiations of no less than 37 hours, reaching a consensus on the highly anticipated Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act). With this groundbreaking deal, Europe assumes the role of the first continent to establish a comprehensive rulebook for AI, poised to become a global blueprint.*

We congratulate all negotiators and welcome the agreement on the AI Act as an important step to create legal certainty and a common regulatory framework for developers, deployers and users of AI in the European Union.

The European AI Forum (EAIF) has been involved in the lawmaking process from the very beginning, hosting a round table with Kilian Gross (EC) one week after the publication of the AI Act in April 2021, sharing industry feedback in the AI Act consultation process, supporting the first pan-European AI Act impact survey in 2022, continuously acting as sparring partner, representing the European AI industry, to members of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. *"The acknowledgement and incorporation of several recommendations of the EAIF is a gratifying achievement. The AI Act will play a crucial role in advancing the excellence of AI and fostering responsible innovation in Europe",* says Jeannette Gorzala, Vice President of the EAIF.

### **General Purpose AI Models**

As far as can be concluded from initial statements, the regulation of general purpose AI models (GPAIMs) largely follows the recent proposals of the Spanish Presidency, while in some aspects taking a softer line than the European Parliament's initial negotiating position. The AI Act introduces dedicated rules for GPAIMs ensuring transparency along the AI value chain. For GPAIMs which could pose systemic risks, additional binding obligations related to risk management, incident and performance monitoring, model evaluation and adversarial testing shall be introduced. *"We will very closely monitor the technical implementation of the requirements for GPAIMs and are still critical of the separation in GPAIMs and 'GPAIMs with systemic risk'. For operationalization, the EAIF respectfully offers its assistance as stakeholder representative,"* says Daniel Abbou, President of the EAIF.

### **Research, Startups & Innovation**

AI research shall be excluded from the scope of the AI Act. Further, it is envisaged that additionally to AI sandboxes, there will be the possibility for testing high-risk AI systems under real world conditions, of course with necessary safeguards. Also in relation to fines, the size of the company shall be taken into account, for the benefit of startups and SMEs. *"In order to be a launch pad for AI research and startups, the clarification of the research exemption in the AI Act as well as the inclusion of innovation*

*tools and support of transparent AI and open-source are key*”, says Marloes Pomp, Vice President of the EAIF.

### **Next Steps**

Despite the achievement of a political agreement, the final text of the AI Act is not yet available and we are aware that a considerable amount of technical work is still ahead, including the pending formal adoption by the European Parliament and the Council, before negotiations on the AI Act can be finally declared closed. With the final text of the AI Act expected to be adopted early 2024, the AI Act shall enter fully into force gradually until 2026.

With the AI Act as the landmark AI governance framework having been achieved, the EAIF underlines that providing a solid framework is one of four key elements to promote AI innovation in Europe. The complementing elements are (i) funding (public and private), (ii) measures for talent retention and attraction and (iii) promoting data sharing and availability as the basis for designing quality algorithms.

*For further inquiries, please contact:*

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### **About the European AI Forum**

The European AI Forum (EAIF) is a non-profit organization representing more than 2,000 AI entrepreneurs 'born and raised' all across Europe. We are designed by and for Europe's AI community and aim to serve as a resource and forum for education, information sharing and networking between companies, policymakers and the general public. Member organizations of the EAIF: CroAI (Croatia) Hub France IA (France), KI Bundesverband (Germany), AI4SI (Slovenia), AI Austria (Austria), AI Cluster Bulgaria (Bulgaria), NL AI Coalitie (the Netherlands), Digitalpoland foundation (Poland) Artificial Intelligence Association of Lithuania (Lithuania).

