

# EU AI Act

Safeguarding fundamental rights

*April 2024*



**Fundamental Rights:** *“set of rights that are recognized and protected at the level of the European Union (EU) to ensure the respect and protection of human dignity, freedoms, and equality.”*

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Article 1 explicitly states the purpose of the Regulation, which is to promote the uptake of human-centric and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI), while ensuring a high level of protection of health, safety, fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, including democracy, the rule of law, and environmental protection, against the harmful effects of AI systems.

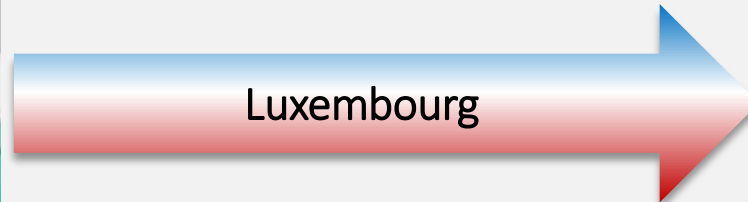
- In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, the European Union is committed to fostering innovation while ensuring the protection of fundamental rights, including those enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- As we examine specific EU Member States' human rights commitment, using data from the EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS), we understand its pivotal role as a measure of their capacity to enhance the functioning of the internal market and drive the adoption of human-centric and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI) systems.
- Central to this examination is the imperative to safeguard health, safety, and fundamental rights against the potential detrimental impacts of AI systems. By prioritizing democracy, the rule of law, and environmental protection, the EU seeks to create an environment conducive to innovation while mitigating risks associated with AI deployment.
- In this presentation, we explore how certain Member States' dedication to upholding human rights principles aligns with the EU's overarching objectives, promoting a resilient and ethical AI ecosystem.

# Key highlights



**Portugal**

has the highest number of accepted human rights conventions, with a total of 50 agreements accepted, indicating a strong commitment to upholding human rights principles.



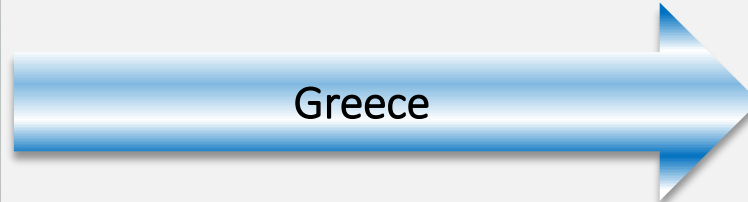
**Luxembourg**

stands out with the highest number of signed conventions (15), demonstrating proactive engagement in the human rights framework at the international level.



**Spain**

shows a remarkable trend of having only one agreement still open, indicating a high level of completion and adherence to international human rights standards.



**Greece**

has accepted a significant number of conventions (34) but has a relatively high number still open (14), suggesting ongoing efforts to align with human rights norms and address outstanding issues.



**Netherlands**

has the highest overall compliance, with only five agreements still open out of a total of 44 accepted, highlighting a strong dedication to fulfilling international human rights obligations.

France's acceptance of the European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment underscores its commitment to protecting individuals' rights and dignity, aligning with the EU's emphasis on fundamental rights protection in AI development and deployment.

The ratification of the Protocol No. 6 and No. 7 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, particularly concerning the abolition of the death penalty, demonstrates France's dedication to upholding human rights principles, which is crucial for building trust in AI systems and ensuring they do not infringe upon individuals' rights.

France's adherence to the Convention on Cybercrime highlights its recognition of the importance of cybersecurity and protecting individuals against digital threats, which is essential for maintaining safety and security in an AI-driven society.

Germany's acceptance of the Protocol No. 13 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which concerns the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances, underscores its commitment to upholding human rights and dignity, aligning with the EU's emphasis on fundamental rights protection in AI development and deployment.

The ratification of the European Charter of Local Self-Government reflects Germany's recognition of the importance of decentralization and local governance, which is essential for promoting democratic principles and ensuring that AI systems serve the needs of local communities while respecting their rights.

Germany's adherence to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding the rights of minority groups, fostering inclusivity, and diversity in AI development and deployment processes.

Italy's acceptance of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment underscores its commitment to preventing human rights abuses and ensuring the humane treatment of individuals, aligning with the EU's emphasis on fundamental rights protection in AI development and deployment.

The ratification of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse demonstrates Italy's dedication to combatting human rights violations that may be exacerbated by AI technologies, such as human trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable populations.

Italy's adherence to the Civil Law Convention on Corruption and the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption reflects its commitment to combatting corruption, fostering transparency, and ensuring accountability in AI-related activities, which is essential for promoting trust and integrity in AI systems.

By accepting protocols and conventions concerning the abolition of the death penalty, such as Protocol No. 6 and Protocol No. 13 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Spain reaffirms its commitment to upholding human rights and dignity, essential for building trust in AI systems and ensuring they do not infringe upon individuals' rights.

The acceptance of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents highlights Spain's commitment to transparency and accountability, essential for ensuring the ethical and responsible development and use of AI systems while safeguarding democratic principles and the rule of law.

Spain's adherence to the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities reflects its recognition of the importance of local governance and minority rights, contributing to the promotion of democratic principles and inclusivity in AI development processes.

# Contact Details



AI  
AI & Partners

Amsterdam - London - Singapore



Email

[contact@ai-and-partners.com](mailto:contact@ai-and-partners.com)



Phone

+44(0)7535 994 132



Website

<https://www.ai-and-partners.com/>



Social Media

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ai-&-partners/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/AI and Partners](https://twitter.com/AI_and_Partners)





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**Thank You!**

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