The EU AI Act and cybersecurity

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Artificial intelligence – the EU vision

“ ever more powerful AI models have been released. Some expect models that will approach human reasoning within a year's time. […]

Together, we built a shared consensus that AI will be safe, and that it will promote our values and benefit humanity. […]

The time has come for us to formulate a vision of where we want AI to take us, as society and as humanity. […]
We want Europe to be one of the leading AI continents.

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
11 February 2025, AI Action Summit in Paris

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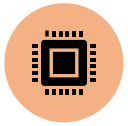
Artificial intelligence – the changing landscape

AI is now a core part of many products and services

AI is transforming cybersecurity – new opportunities but also new threats and challenges



Cybersecurity threats: Advanced GPAI can, for example, exploit vulnerabilities, create adaptive malware, and automate cyber-attacks or phishing

The EU is responding: The EU AI Act is the world's first comprehensive AI regulation to promote uptake and innovation in **TRUSTWORTHY AI.**

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The AI Act – a strategic asset

Horizontal product safety legislation

- “Classic” EU internal market rules
- Coherence with EU acquis on product safety

Technology neutral

- Focus on AI systems
- No regulation of technology, but of use cases

Risk-based approach

- Applying rules commensurate to risk
- Covers risks to health, safety & fundamental rights

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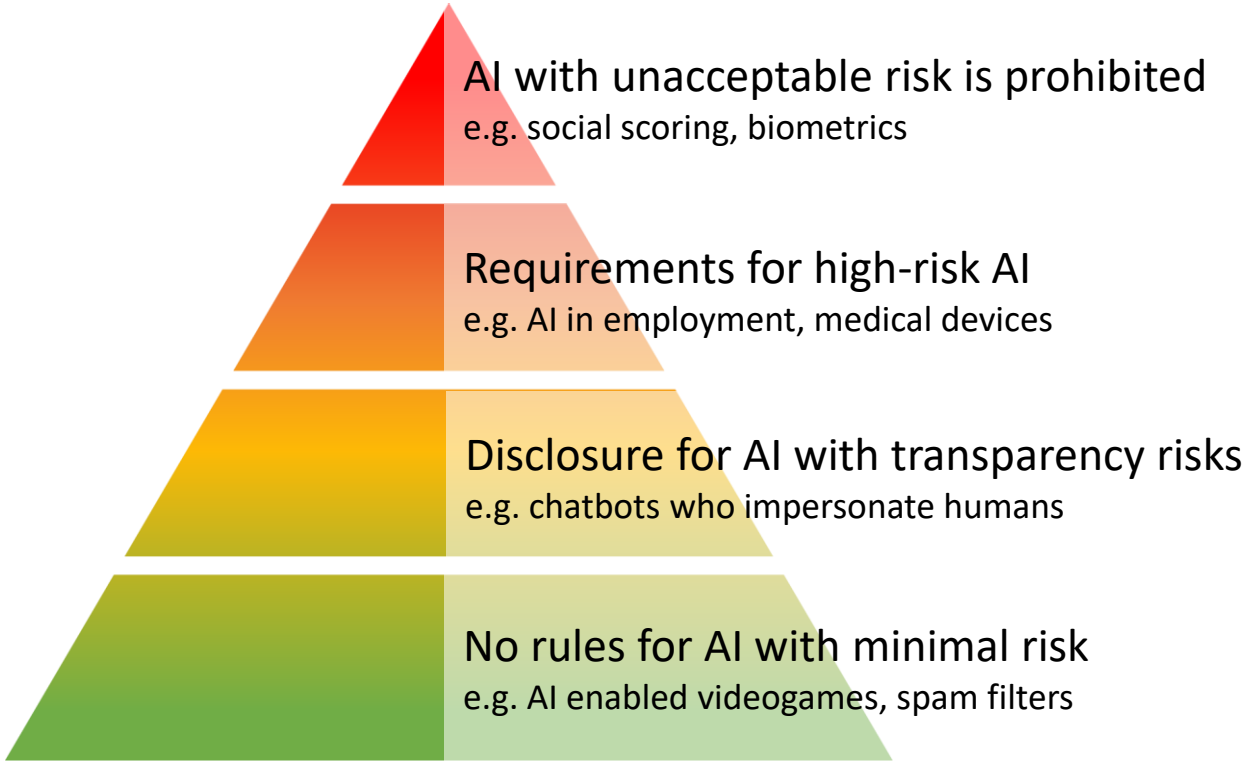
AI Act – risk-based approach

Risk-based rules for AI systems:



Transparency and risk management for **general-purpose AI models** that can be components of AI systems

- Ensuring safe and trustworthy AI
- Fostering responsible innovation
- Complementarity with other EU law
- Future-proof and adaptable

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The AI Act – key provisions on cybersecurity

- **Cybersecurity is an important element of the requirements to ensure that high-risk AI systems and GPAI models with systemic risks are trustworthy!**
- **High-risk AI systems:** Article 15 (requirements), Article 42 (2) (presumption of conformity) + Recitals 76, 77, 78 and 122
- **General-purpose AI models with systemic risks:** Article 55 (1) d) (obligation) + Recitals 114 and 115

AI Act – a unified approach to safety and security

The EU AI Act leads a paradigm shift:

- **AI cybersecurity** is one of the essential requirements of **AI system safety**
- Cybersecure-by-design is not optional—**it's legally mandated**
- Organizations must treat cybersecurity as an **integral feature** of AI system development, not a separate domain
- Cybersecurity is **not just security of IT infrastructure**

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AI Act – requirements and standards

Mandatory Requirements for high-risk AI systems before they can be used on the EU market

Provider is responsible for EU declaration of conformity + CE marking

(Harmonized) Standards – in preparation

- → **Operational tools to support regulatory compliance with the requirements under the AI Act**
- → Ongoing work in **ISO/IEC SC-42 and CEN/CENELC JTC-21**. The main principle 'international first' i.e. build on IEC/ISO work as much as possible, however, as long as the international standards are aligned with the AIA Objectives and approach and cover same type of risks

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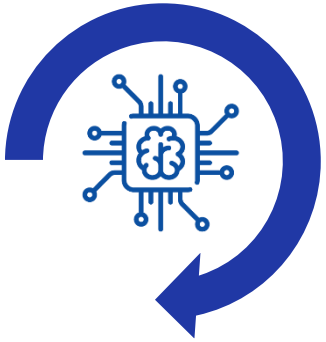
Disclosure obligations and risk management for GPAI models



General-purpose AI models
= highly capable AI models used at the basis of AI systems such as ChatGPT

Transparency for all general-purpose AI models

+

Risk management for those with systemic risk

Code of practice developed together with stakeholders will detail out rules

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AI Act interplay with the Cyber Resilience Act

- CRA sets horizontal cybersecurity rules for all digital products
- AIA sets AI specific cybersecurity rules
- Both AIA and CRA are part of EU ‘New Legislative Framework’ safety acquis’
- **Standards will play a key role**
- Presumption of conformity + One conformity assessment procedure for AI enabled products (default rule the AI Act)

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Recap: The AI Act – the changing paradigm

Cybersecurity is a core part of AI Act product safety approach

→ The Act **explicitly includes cybersecurity** as one of the essential requirement of high-risk AI system safety. That means: High-risk AI system that is **not cybersecure is, by definition, not safe under the EU AI Act**.

Requirements for high-risk AI systems in the Act:

- Implement **technical measures to manage and mitigate risks** including cybersecurity risks **– RMS & QMS**
- Prevent **data manipulation and data vulnerabilities**
- Maintain **logging** and comply with **transparency and human oversight**
- Ensure **resilience against adversarial attacks**
- Comply with **state-of-the-art cybersecurity practice**

Standards – compliance tools

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The AI Act's governance structure

Rules for AI systems
(i.e. prohibitions, high-risk, transparency)

Market surveillance authorities

Rules for general-purpose AI models

Commission (AI Office)

AI Board
with EU Member States to coordinate at EU level

Scientific Panel
supports with independent technical advice

Advisory Forum
supports with stakeholder input

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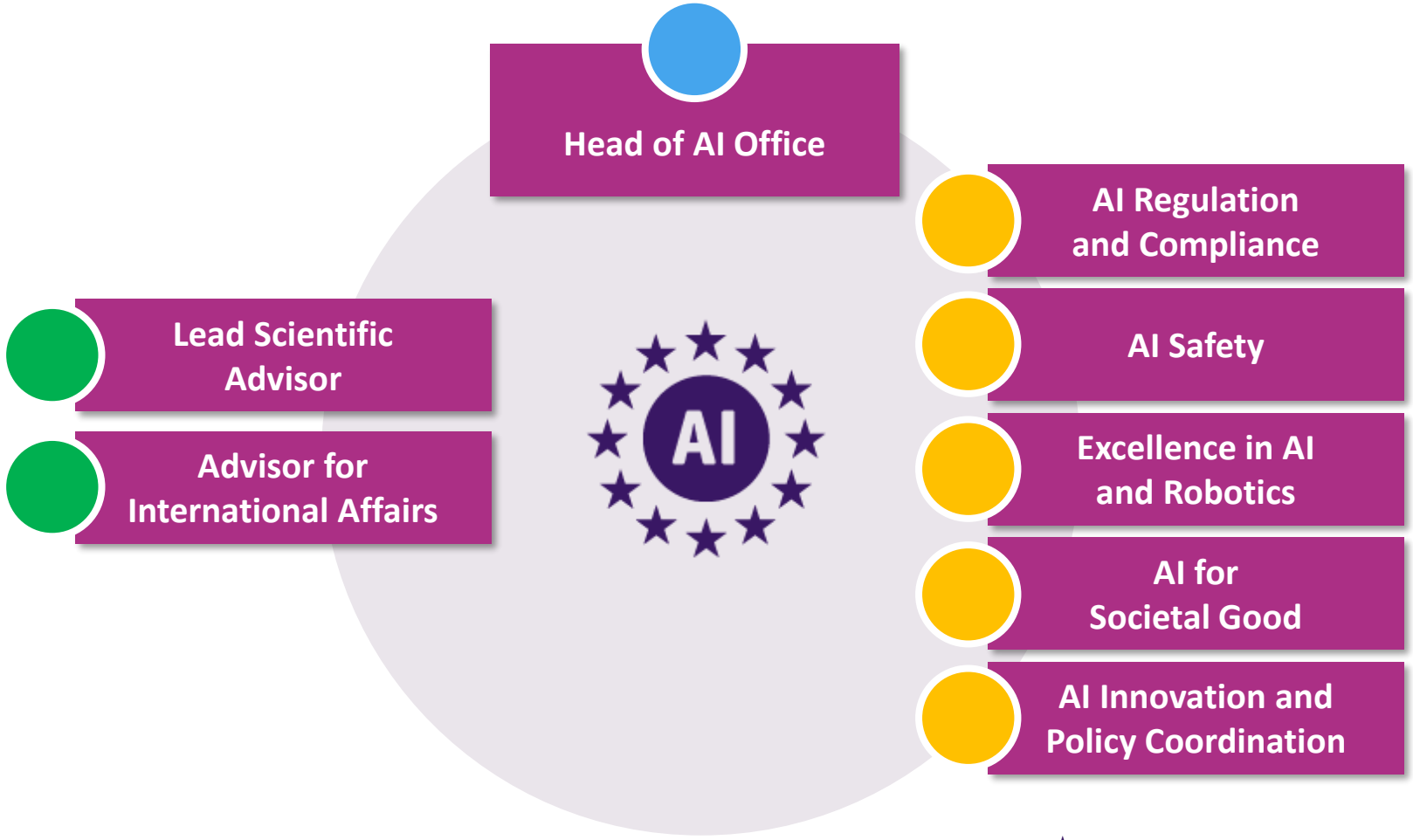
Introducing the European AI Office

360 degrees vision on AI:

- key role in the implementation of the AI Act, especially in relation to general-purpose AI models
- fosters research and innovation in trustworthy AI
- positions the EU as a leader in international discussions and contributor to AI for good



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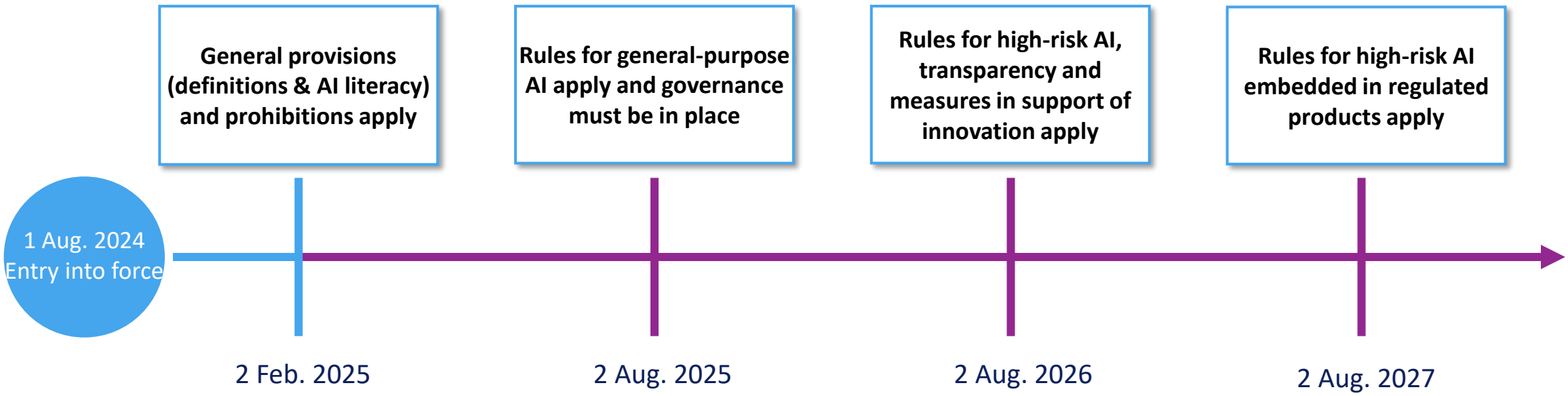
The AI Act timeline



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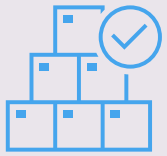
Implementation priorities for the AI Act

Set-up of governance structure

- Growing the **AI Office**
- Collaboration with **Member States** in the AI Board
- Establishing the **Scientific Panel** and **Advisory Forum**

Providing guidance on the practical AI Act application



- In-depth **guidance documents & guidelines**
- Coordinating the development of stakeholder-driven instruments like **standards** and the **code of practice** on general-purpose AI

Stakeholder outreach and support in compliance

- **AI Pact** network with more than 3000 stakeholders, webinar and workshops
- Upcoming **AI Act Service Desk**

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Recent activities

Publication of a repository of good practices for AI literacy.

Publication of guidelines on the AI system definition and prohibitions.

Ongoing iterative drafting of Code of practice on general-purpose AI.

Our AI Pact webinars for an in-depth look into the AI Act.

Explore all our activities online:

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Thank you for your attention.