

Opinion on a “Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union legislative acts (COM (2021) 206 final)”.

The Committee on EU Policies of Italy’s Chamber of Deputies,

Having examined, pursuant to Rule 127.1 of the Chamber’s Rules of Procedure, a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union legislative acts (COM (2021) 206 final);

Whereas the proposed regulation would guide the placing on the market, putting into service, and use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems by introducing a series of harmonised standards for the design, development, and use of certain high-risk AI systems, along with restrictions on certain types of use such as, in particular, remote biometric identification;

Considering that:

The European Commission wants the AI system to be as technology neutral as possible and future-proofed against technological and market developments; to this end, Annex I lists approaches to and techniques for AI development that the Commission may update by means of delegated acts;

As long as the conditions set out in Article 7.1 are met, the Commission is further empowered to adopt delegated acts to bring the list of systems shown in Annex III up to date by adding high-risk AI systems;

Article 5 prohibits the placing on the market, putting into service, or use of AI systems deemed incompatible with EU values such as, in particular, those that are enshrined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights;

The Commission is to be commended for proposing a horizontal regulatory approach to ensure that AI tools are secure, trustworthy, and consistent with European values;

The proposed regulation envisages a system of governance both at the national and at the European level, to which end it provides for the setting up of a European Artificial Intelligence Board tasked with facilitating the application of the regulation and fostering cooperation between national supervisory authorities and the Commission;

Taking cognisance of the report on the proposal issued by the Government pursuant to Article 6.4 of Law 234 of 24 December 2012;

Noting that this Opinion, along with the Final Document of the relevant parliamentary committees, needs to be transmitted promptly to the European Commission as part of the political dialogue, as well as to the European Parliament and the Council;

does hereby express:

A FAVOURABLE OPINION

with the following remarks:

The relevant parliamentary committees should consider raising the following points in the appropriate European institutional settings:

- a) In the updating of the scope of application of the new regulation, Member States should have a greater say than is envisaged in the current proposal, which provides instead for the adoption of delegated acts by the European Commission;
- b) For the sake of precision in the identification of the practices to be banned under the new regulation, Article 5 requires terminological clarification where it refers to "subliminal techniques," the exploitation of "the vulnerabilities of a specific group of people," and "psychological harm;"
- c) On account of the broad scope of the proposal and its direct applicability as a regulation of the EU, it seems advisable to strengthen its provisions relating to coordination both with current EU laws (e.g. the General Data Protection Regulation) and with EU laws that are still in the making;
- d) The need for coordination applies to, inter alia, important current Commission initiatives on digital finance and the Commission's proposal for a directive on improving working conditions in platform work relating to the control of AI systems used in the workplace.