



Intercultural school
Talents pour le monde

**EPREUVES D'ADMISSION EN
STRATEGIES DIGITALES
INTERCULTURELLES**

LANGUE DE TRAVAIL: ANGLAIS

Read the following article then complete the exercise below.

EU artificial intelligence rules will ban 'unacceptable' use

Published

21 April 2021

Some "unacceptable" uses of artificial intelligence would be banned in Europe under proposals unveiled on Wednesday.

The European Commission's rules would ban "AI systems considered a clear threat to the safety, livelihoods and rights of people", it said.

It is also proposing far stricter rules on the use of biometrics - such as facial recognition being used by law enforcement, which would be limited.

Breaking the rules could lead to fines of up to 6% of global turnover.

For the largest technology companies, that could amount to billions.

'Fundamental rights'

The commission's digital chief, Margrethe Vestager, said: "On artificial intelligence, trust is a must, not a nice-to-have."

And the EU was developing "new global norms" for AI.

"Future-proof and innovation-friendly, our rules will intervene where strictly needed - when the safety and fundamental rights of EU citizens are at stake," she said.

The draft rules face a lengthy approval process and are not yet final.

'High risk'

Many of the core ideas were leaked last week, in advance of the announcement, prompting concern from the technology community that it could stifle innovation.

"The European Commission's proposed regime will not sit well with many in the community," said Nikolas Kairinos, chief executive of Soffos.ai, which makes an AI for employee training in businesses.

"Loose definitions like 'high risk' are unhelpfully vague.

"An ambiguous, tick-box approach to regulation that is overseen by individuals who may not have an in-depth understanding of AI technology will hardly inspire confidence."

Herbert Swaniker, a technology expert at the law firm Clifford Chance, said the proposed hefty fines gave AI regulation much more power - and was "extremely ambitious" in scope.

"There's a lot to do to sharpen some of these concepts," he said.

"The fines are one thing - but how will vendors address the significant costs and human input needed to make compliance a reality?"

"The proposals will force vendors to fundamentally rethink how AI is procured and designed."

The rules would govern what AI was used for, rather than the technology itself, Ms Vestager said.

But "AI systems or applications that manipulate human behaviour to circumvent users' free will", including "subliminal techniques", would fall into the banned "unacceptable risk" category.

Those operating in high-risk areas - such as national infrastructure, education, employment, finance, and law enforcement - would face a series of hurdles before they could be used. For example, CV-sorting software in recruitment or credit-scoring systems for bank loans would have to;

- prove their accuracy and fairness
- keep records of all their activity
- have "appropriate human oversight"

And all "remote biometric identification" systems - such as the use of facial recognition by police but not using a fingerprint to unlock a phone or a face scan at passport control - would be "subject to strict requirements".

"Their live use in publicly accessible spaces for law-enforcement purposes is prohibited in principle," the commission said, with rare exceptions such as an "imminent terrorist threat". But the vast majority of AI technology would fall into the low-risk category, with far less strict rules.

Rule-based systems

Chatbots in customer service, for example, should simply make clear people are interacting with a machine.

And simple rule-based systems such as email spam filtering would have no restrictions.

The European Parliament and EU member states will both consider the proposals - and they are likely likely to change as part of that process.

But if passed, the regulations would apply "inside and outside the EU" if an AI system was available in the EU "or its use affects people located in the EU".

EXERCISE

What do you think of the rules proposed by the European Commission to regulate the use of artificial intelligence? To what extent is regulation necessary, and what, in your view, would constitute 'unacceptable' use of AI?

Use information from the text as well as your own knowledge and examples to justify your answer.

You should write around 500 words.