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The EU AI Regulation : Balancing Innovation And Public Safety

Summary (150 words)

KEY POINTS

1. The EU should effective AI regulation to protect citizens safety privacy and fundamental rights.

2. Balancing innovation requires clear rules and practical support for smaller businesses.

3. Public safety depend on effective,enforcement, transparency and continuous monitoring of AI system.

As an undergraduate researcher analyzing European Union politics, I examine how the EU can establish effective AI regulations while balancing public safety and innovation. The core research question is: How can the EU enforce AI rules without creating unnecessary barriers for businesses and researchers? Our hypothesis is that a risk-based regulatory framework, combined with clear guidance and targeted support for smaller companies, can safeguard fundamental rights without stifling responsible innovation.

Recent policy developments highlight this ongoing balancing act.While the implementation and oversight of the AI Act advanced steadily, the introduction of the AI Omnibus brought targeted simplifications and extended transition periods for specific obligations.However, formal rules alone cannot guarantee protection. Uneven enforcement, limited technical expertise across member states, and high compliance costs risk exposing citizens to harm while disproportionately burdening smaller firms.Closing these gaps requires strengthening national enforcement capacities, providing accessible compliance resources, and transparently monitoring regulatory outcomes. Ultimately, successful implementation depends on continuously weighing safety results against innovation impacts to adjust policies as evidence emerges.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping key sectors, including education, healthcare, business, and public administration. However, this widespread deployment brings clear hazards—most notably privacy breaches, algorithmic bias, misinformation, and heightened cybersecurity threats.

To address these concerns, the EU AI Act adopts a risk-based model that imposes stricter rules on high-risk applications. As implementation moved to the forefront, the EU introduced the AI Omnibus to help firms adapt by simplifying certain procedural requirements and extending compliance deadlines, all without diluting core safety principles.

Even with these adjustments, major practical friction remains. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face disproportionate financial and technical burdens when trying to meet these standards. At the same time, gaps in technical capacity among national regulators risk causing inconsistent enforcement across member states. Ultimately, ensuring that the regulation remains effective without placing an intolerable strain on smaller market players is where the real policy challenge lies.

Policy Recommendations

1.Strengthen Enforcement Capacity: National regulatory bodies require direct EU support through targeted funding, technical expertise, and specialized training programs. Building this joint capacity is crucial to prevent uneven application of AI rules across member states.

2.Support Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs): To reduce compliance hurdles for smaller players, the European Commission ought to deploy user-friendly guidance, practical compliance tools, and dedicated regulatory sandboxes. This will help SMEs meet legal obligations without facing prohibitive costs.

3.Improve Transparency and Monitoring: EU institutions must establish routine evaluations of emerging AI risks, investigate potential non-compliance, and publicly report regulatory metrics. These assessments should track both public safety indicators and the long-term impact on technological innovation.



FOOTNOTES *

1.https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai

2.https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/ai-omnibus-enters-force

3.https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/eu-action-plan-cybersecurity-and-artificial-intelligence

5. https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/faqs/navigating-ai-act



Author :
This Policy Brief has been prepared as part of the participants / students' assessment in the framework of the EU Politics lecture.
The content of this policy brief lies entirely with the author. It does not reflect the official opinion of Çağ University.