

Brussels, 20th of November 2025

Press Release by the European AI Forum (EAIF) on:

Digital Omnibus strengthens European AI companies: deadline extension and simplifications bring urgently needed relief

The European AI Forum (EAIF) sees today's draft of the Digital Omnibus as a first step towards the necessary simplification of European digital legislation and welcomes the European Commission's proposals. This is a clear signal for the European AI landscape and competitiveness. The EU Commission's publication includes many of the proposals we called for, based on the practical experience of many European companies.

The paper focuses on significant deadline extensions for high-risk systems, a stronger focus on SMEs and small mid-caps, and new instruments to make regulation more flexible. Several long-standing demands of the AI Federal Association are reflected in the final draft: from postponing high-risk obligations to 12-15 months to easing registration and documentation requirements. It is to be hoped that the Council and Parliament will reach a swift agreement in the further legislative process so that the proposed demands can be formulated and digital legislation further improved as part of the announced 'digital fitness check'.

Daniel Abbou, President European AI Forum: *"The draft of the European Commission's Digital Omnibus is a promising proposal for AI companies in Europe. With its decision to extend the implementation deadlines of the AI Act for high-risk AI systems, the European Commission is responding to a long-standing demand by numerous European start-ups. This gives companies the time they need to integrate standards before sanctions take effect. The supplementary regulations for small mid-caps are also important in order to reduce the burden on fast-growing companies."*

The main regulatory risk is that the high-risk AI obligations are set to go live in August 2026, leaving only around seven months to finalise the entire AI Omnibus process through Council and Parliament. This compressed timeline generates significant uncertainty for providers and deployers. At the same time, the AI sector is still waiting for the publication of harmonised standards and norms, including ISO and CEN/CENELEC specifications, which are essential for building truly compliant systems. Companies want to meet all requirements, but without available standards the practical implementation of the AI Act remains unclear, risking legal uncertainty and delays. A

coordinated and accelerated rollout of these standards is therefore crucial for effective and innovation-friendly compliance.

About the European AI Forum EAIF:

The European AI Forum (EAIF) is the umbrella organisation of 13 national European AI associations and clusters. Combined, we represent over 3000 members, making us the largest European AI organisation. We represent members such as SMEs, corporates, organisations and individual experts in AI.

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