

EDPS Comments on Commission's Artificial Intelligence Act Proposal

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News

In a press release dated 23 April 2021, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), *Wojciech Wiewiórowski*, welcomed the Commission's proposal for a new regulation laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (*Artificial Intelligence Act* – → separate news item). The EDPS especially recognised the merit of a risk-based approach concerning the future-proof definition of AI that the Commission adopted in its proposal.

The EDPS also stressed the importance of a ban on remote biometric identification in the public and expressed his regret that the previous calls for a moratorium on the use of remote biometric identification systems in publicly accessible spaces have not been addressed by the Commission. *Wiewiórowski* remarked that the use of remote biometric identifications that results in automatic recognition of human features in public spaces could present "extremely high risks of deep and non-democratic intrusion into individuals' private lives". For the discussion on a ban of AI technology enabling biometric mass surveillance → see separate news item.

In order to support the Commission in strengthening the protection of individual rights, the EDPS will analyse the proposal of the new regulation.

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