Procedure file

Basic information

CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	2024/0016(CNS)	Awaiting final decision

EuroHPC initiative for start-ups to boost European leadership in trustworthy Artificial Intelligence

Amending Regulation 2021/1173 2020/0260(NLE)

Subject
3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies
3.40.06 Electronics, electrotechnical industries, ICT, robotics
8.40.08 Agencies and bodies of the EU

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		14/02/2024
		CARVALHO Maria da Graça	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		HRISTOV Ivo	
		SOLÍS PÉREZ Susana	
		NIINISTÖ Ville	
		ROOS Robert	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Communications Networks, Content and Technology	BRETON Thierry	

Key events

24/01/2024	Legislative proposal published	COM(2024)0029	Summary
11/03/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/03/2024	Vote in committee		
25/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0161/2024	
24/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0359/2024	

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/0016(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation 2021/1173 2020/0260(NLE)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 187; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 188 -a1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	ITRE/9/14076

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2024)0029	24/01/2024	EC	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE759.647	29/02/2024	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0926/2024	20/03/2024	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0161/2024	25/03/2024	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0359/2024	24/04/2024	EP	

EuroHPC initiative for start-ups to boost European leadership in trustworthy Artificial Intelligence

PURPOSE: to amend Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 as regards a European High Performance Computing (EuroHPC) initiative for start-ups to boost European leadership in trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council adopts the act after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

BACKGROUND: a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) aims to improve the functioning of the internal market by laying down a uniform legal framework in particular for the development, marketing and use of artificial intelligence in conformity with Union values.

Since 2021, when Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 was adopted, the field of artificial intelligence (AI) has seen enormous technical progress and become a highly strategic and contested domain globally. The Union is at the forefront of efforts to support responsible innovation in trustworthy AI, while setting?guardrails?and developing?effective governance.

On 13 September 2023, as part of a comprehensive approach to support responsible innovation in AI, the Commission announced a new strategic initiative to make the Unions high-performance computing capacity available to innovative European startups in trustworthy AI to train their models.

Given that the Unions most powerful world-class supercomputing capacity is found in the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertakings facilities, it is those facilities that should be made available in order for the Commissions initiative to become a reality. It is accordingly necessary to introduce a further objective to the existing six objectives of the Joint Undertaking that would cover the contribution made by its supercomputers to the new AI initiative of the Union.

CONTENT: the proposed amendment will enable the Joint Undertaking to perform activities in the domains of acquiring and operating AI-dedicated supercomputers or partitions of supercomputers to enable fast machine learning and training of large AI foundation models. Those changes would enable the Joint Undertaking to offer tailored computing power and services to nurture large-scale AI training and development and uptake in the Union, which is not feasible under the current Regulation. Only common action of this kind at Union level can enhance the technological sovereignty and Unions economic security and leverage its tools and regulatory powers to shape global rules and standards in AI, at the same time significantly contributing to AI uptake in European industry, research and public services.

More specifically, the proposed amendment of the EuroHPC Regulation aims to set up AI Factories, a new pillar for the EU's supercomputers Joint Undertaking activities. It will consist of:

- acquiring, upgrading and operating AI-dedicated supercomputers to enable fast machine learning and training of large General Purpose AI

(GPAI) models;

- facilitating access to the AI dedicated supercomputers, contributing to the widening of the use of AI to a large number of public and private users, including startups and SMEs;

- offering a one-stop shop for startups and innovators, supporting the AI startup and research ecosystem in algorithmic development, testing evaluation and validation of large-scale AI models, providing supercomputer-friendly programming facilities and other AI enabling services;

- providing dedicated AI oriented supercomputing services in support of the AI startup, science and innovation ecosystem for the large-scale training and development of general purpose, trustworthy and ethical AI models and systems, and of AI user communities for the development, validation and running of emerging AI applications, in particular in the areas of health and care, climate change, robotics, and connected and automated driving;

- fostering a talent development pool to provide advanced education, training, skilling and reskilling activities to relevant AI stakeholders.