

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ETHICS CHARTER¹

I. Context and purpose of this document

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) is committed to developing, deploying and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in accordance with EU values, as enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, in order to promote human-centric and trustworthy AI. When dealing with AI systems, the CJEU has operated and will continue to operate in strict compliance with applicable legal rules, as laid down, in particular, in the EU Data Protection Regulation² and in the AI Act³. However, trustworthy AI should not only be lawful, but also ethical and robust, both from a technical and social perspective⁴.

On this basis, the CJEU is progressively deploying a number of AI-powered instruments, including for the purpose of assisting the Court of Justice and the General Court in the performance of their judicial functions. These instruments are expected to improve efficiency and effectiveness of judicial and administrative processes and make the Court more accessible to citizens.

AI presents a number of risks when applied to activities providing support to judicial functions within the CJEU. Prominent among these risks are bias and discrimination linked to the use of unsuitable or corrupted data, of disclosure of sensitive information, including personal data, of cyberattacks, of lack of explainability and, not least important in the context of judicial activities, of over-reliance on technology ('automation bias'). The latter may lead to freezing the development of the case-law, reducing the attention given to other legal systems, favouring the dominance of certain legal cultures, and affecting the quality of judicial decisions.

Ethical standards must be established in order to address these risks and ensure that humans, in particular Judges and Advocates General, remain in full control of judicial procedures, preserving their autonomy and independence.

¹ The Charter has been adopted by the CJEU on 26 January 2026.

² Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

³ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>). Although the AI Act came into force on 1 August 2024, the dates on which its provisions become applicable vary, ranging from 2 February 2025 to 2 August 2027. As far as practically possible, the CJEU commits to comply with all of the provisions immediately, without waiting for their official date of application.

⁴ Independent High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, *Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI*, 2019.

This Charter⁵ articulates the commitments of the CJEU regarding the ethical use of AI tools developed or deployed within the institution. It provides clarity to users within the institution, as well as the public, on how the institution intends to operate. It is relevant for the creation, adoption and use of AI systems throughout their entire lifecycle.

II. Ethical Standards and Measures Intended to promote responsible AI and Mitigate Risks

A. Fairness, Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Fundamental Rights

The CJEU will ensure that any AI system created by its services or by contractors acting under its control is designed and implemented in compliance with the principles of fairness, impartiality and non-discrimination, and that it fully respects fundamental rights. Similarly, in selecting third-party AI systems to be deployed within the institution, the CJEU shall take all reasonable steps, based on available information, to ensure that such systems comply with those principles and fundamental rights.

Data sets used for contextual training, validation and testing of AI systems at the CJEU shall be relevant, representative and to the best extent possible free of errors, complete, consistent and up to date. All reasonable efforts shall be made to identify, correct and mitigate possible bias that may lead to discrimination prohibited under Union law, affect impartiality or have any other negative impact on fundamental rights.

In order to ensure equitable access, AI interfaces and systems developed or deployed by the CJEU must accommodate diverse needs and abilities. The CJEU is committed to minimising barriers arising from disparities in technological proficiency – whether in workplace settings, legal proceedings, or public engagement with the CJEU. The use of AI tools shall promote multiculturalism and multilingualism, in line with the values of the CJEU.

B. Transparency and Traceability

The CJEU will only use AI systems in the public interest, to fulfill its mission and tasks under the EU Treaties, and only for the intended purpose of each system. The specific purpose and goals of each AI system and of each category of use shall be properly identified and documented.

Court members and staff shall receive detailed explanations and information as to the functioning of AI tools. Limitations as to the accuracy of the AI systems shall be understandably described.

⁵ The Charter builds upon the Artificial Intelligence Strategy, adopted on 19 June 2023 and made available to the public on its [website \(https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2023-11/cjeu_ai_strategy.pdf\)](https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2023-11/cjeu_ai_strategy.pdf). The Strategy outlined the expected benefits of deploying AI tools, set out the principles the CJEU intends to follow and established an appropriate internal governance model, in particular the Artificial Intelligence Management Board, composed of Members of both courts as well as representatives of the administration.

Users have to be made aware when they are interacting with an AI system. Contents generated by AI without verification shall be labelled as such if made available to persons other than the user who asked for their creation.

Data sets and processes used for contextual training, which are relevant to the output of an AI system, shall be known and documented.

C. System integrity and confidentiality

AI systems must be technically robust and operate in a safe, secure and reliable manner, with appropriate safeguards, resilience against attacks, protection against malicious use, and effective fallback mechanisms to prevent or limit any adverse effects.

Confidentiality is a fundamental and defining feature of the CJEU's work. This calls for a particularly cautious and measured approach to integrating AI tools. All AI use shall fully comply with the institution's existing confidentiality protocols, internal security rules, and data protection standards.

D. Human Agency, Oversight and Accountability

Within the CJEU, the task allocation between AI and humans must safeguard the central role of the latter, enhance their capabilities and require appropriate human oversight. With respect to judicial procedures, humans, in particular Judges and Advocates General, remain in full control. AI systems shall not be entrusted with decision-making responsibilities.

All AI systems shall be developed, deployed and used under human supervision. Strong quality control mechanisms and protocols shall be implemented. These will include controls and feedback from users on the quality of the output. Those responsible for these controls shall report anomalies and mistakes.

Users must adopt a critical approach towards machine-generated outputs, check their accuracy and completeness in each case and report errors, issues or even simple doubts, with a view to further verifications.

The CJEU shall define and allocate responsibilities in the various phases of development, deployment and use of AI systems and establish processes which monitor their functioning and correct weaknesses and failures.

The CJEU shall develop and employ a culture of data verification, which provides effective guarantees of the accuracy, integrity, veracity and reliability of AI design, development, and utilization.

To avoid accountability gaps, the use of AI systems shall always be accompanied by clear internal attribution of responsibility for the final document, or other deliverable produced with AI assistance. Accountability for the final product rests with the individual and cannot be transferred to the AI system.

AI systems developed by the CJEU's services or by its contractors shall undergo regular tests and audits, in order to detect and correct possible biases and shortcomings and improve the quality of their output.

The institution is committed to promoting a culture of responsible and trustworthy AI use by providing regular training and awareness-raising initiatives for its staff.

Governance mechanisms shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adapted, to make sure that they remain fit for purpose.

E. Societal and Environmental Responsibility

The CJEU is aware of its responsibility towards the society and the environment when deploying AI systems. It will carefully consider potential impacts.

It will ensure that their deployment does not diminish the human dimension of citizens' interaction with the CJEU or exacerbate the 'digital divide'.

AI systems development, deployment and use shall seek to minimise adverse effects on the environment, in particular in terms of energy and water consumption or CO₂ emissions. Consideration shall be given to whether choices with lower environmental impact can be made.

F. Continuous Improvement

The CJEU undertakes to keep pace with technical, legal and ethical developments.

The CJEU will continue to promote and actively participate in a dialogue with national courts and authorities, regarding the use of AI. It will continue to foster interinstitutional cooperation and work with other judicial institutions to share experiences. It will seek to identify and implement best practices, and engage in the academic and social debate.

The Artificial Intelligence Management Board will consider relevant feedback and technological developments, as well as the results of its own formal review mechanisms, to propose appropriate changes and adaptations to this Charter or detailed guidance on specific issues.