

29 April 2026

Ms Lucilla Sioli  
Head of the AI Office

Dear Ms Sioli,

We, the undersigned civil society organisations and researchers, are writing to express our concern regarding **the delay and limited transparency surrounding the establishment of the AI Act Advisory Forum.**

The call for expression of interest to join the Forum was closed in September 2025. Despite several requests to the AI Office for clarification on the timeline and the process for finalising the selection and completion of the establishment of the Forum, we have not received sufficient information. Seven months after the call ended, the final selection results and the first meeting of the Forum have still not been announced. This delay and the lack of clarity create uncertainty about the status and prioritisation of the Forum's establishment. **We call for transparency about the selection of members of the Forum as well as of the next steps.**

The Advisory Forum is foreseen in the AI Act as **the only formal mechanism to gather multi-stakeholder input to support the AI Office and the AI Board in the implementation and application of the law.** As important implementation processes are already underway or completed, **the absence of the Forum limits opportunities for structured, consistent, and inclusive input.** While we welcome ad hoc consultations with public interest actors, a formalised Forum - in line with its aim envisioned by co-legislators - would provide a more predictable and representative framework for engagement, including for underrepresented perspectives. As a shared dialogue between different types of stakeholders, the Forum is also a key transparency measure enabling increased understanding of each actor's respective positions. Finally, we highlight that an established Forum would have also been beneficial in providing advice on any changes to the AI Act as well as the schedule of implementation.

The recently adopted EU Civil Society Strategy underscores that meaningful engagement with civil society is a cornerstone of EU policymaking. In this context, **we encourage the AI Office to operationalise the Strategy's guiding principles - particularly predictability and regularity, transparency, and inclusivity - in its approach to stakeholder engagement.**

In the absence of the Forum, many implementation discussions - such as those concerning prohibitions, high-risk classification, and fundamental rights obligations - take place primarily between the AI Office and the AI Board. Contributing effectively in this context often requires established networks, institutional knowledge, and proximity to Brussels-based processes. This creates

**barriers for many civil society actors**, particularly those representing or working with communities most affected by AI-related risks.

In addition, civil society organisations and many academic researchers are operating in a constrained and uncertain funding environment. Predictable timelines and transparent processes are therefore essential to enable meaningful participation, including securing and planning resources and ensuring staff availability for sustained engagement.

In this context, **we request the AI Office to prioritise the establishment of the Advisory Forum and to provide clarity on the expected timeline and process.** We would also welcome the development of concrete measures to foster an enabling environment for civil society participation in AI Act implementation and enforcement - including outside the Forum, in line with the commitments set out in the EU Civil Society Strategy.

We remain at your disposal to share further insights on the challenges faced by civil society actors and to contribute practical suggestions on how inclusive engagement with civil society and researchers can be strengthened in the context of AI Act implementation.

Sincerely,

Organisations:

Access Now

AI Accountability Lab (AIAL), Trinity College Dublin

AlgorithmWatch

Alternatif Bilisim

Amnesty International

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Asociația pentru Tehnologie și Internet (ApTI)

Avaaz Foundation

BEUC - European Consumer Organisation

Bits of Freedom

Centre for Democracy and Technology Europe

Citizens Network Watchdog Poland

Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties)

Danes je nov dan, Inštitut za druga vprašanja

Electronic Frontier Norway

European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL)

European Civic Forum  
European Disability Forum (EDF)  
European Digital Rights (EDRI)  
European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)  
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)  
European Public Service Union (EPSU)  
Hermes Center  
Homo Digitalis  
LDH (Ligue des droits de l'Homme)  
Panopykon Foundation  
Politiscope  
Statewatch  
The Swedish Disability Rights Federation  
WITNESS

Individuals:

Prof. Lilian Edwards, Emerita Newcastle University  
Prof. Douwe Korff Emeritus Professor of international law  
Dr. Laurens Naudts, AI, Media & Democracy Lab - Institute for Information Law,  
University of Amsterdam  
Krista Ojala, Tukena-foundation  
Dr. Plixavra Vogiatzoglou, University of Amsterdam