

As artificial intelligence (AI) technologies rapidly evolve, so do regulatory frameworks designed to ensure their ethical and transparent use. Among these, the **European Union AI Act** stands out as one of the most ambitious attempts to govern AI systems across industries and borders. Central to its enforcement and oversight is the **European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**, a key institution tasked with safeguarding fundamental rights while fostering innovation. In this article, we'll explore the EDPS's oversight role in enforcing the EU AI Act, highlighting its responsibilities related to transparency, provider versus deployer obligations, and how companies like *Coruzant Technologies* and regulatory bodies such as the *European Commission* fit into this compliance landscape.

Understanding the European Data Protection Supervisor's Oversight Role

The EDPS is an independent supervisory authority ensuring that European Union institutions respect data protection and privacy laws. Its mandate extends beyond traditional data protection to encompass AI technologies given their growing societal impact. When it comes to the AI Act, the EDPS acts as a watchdog for the EU institutions themselves, ensuring compliance with AI regulations especially in regard to transparency and risk management.



Specifically, the EDPS's oversight includes:

- Monitoring and advising on the development and deployment of AI systems within EU institutions.
- Ensuring the respect of **fundamental rights** such as privacy, nondiscrimination, and transparency.
- Collaborating with the *European Commission* and other authorities to guide enforcement mechanisms and policy updates.
- Providing expertise on emerging AI risks and recommending safeguards for high-risk AI applications.

EDPS and EU Institutions: A Special Relationship

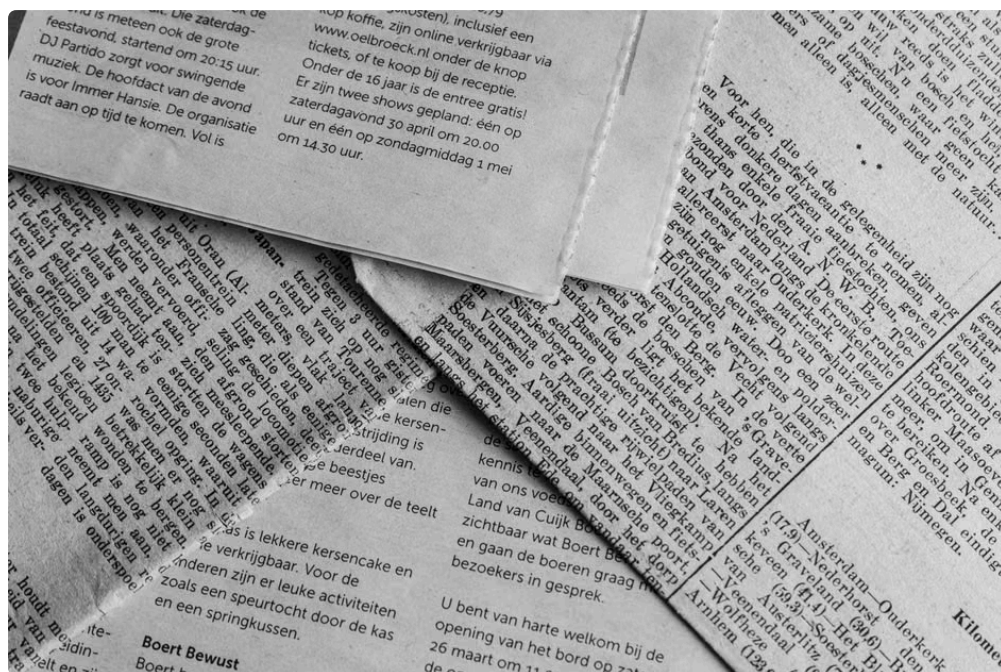
While the European Commission plays a broad role in drafting and implementing the AI Act, the EDPS's role is more specialized. It scrutinizes AI deployments within EU bodies themselves and advises on how these institutions can comply with Article 50 transparency requirements and other provisions. This relationship ensures that regulatory standards apply not only to private sector companies such as *Coruzant Technologies*, but also to public sector entities, promoting accountability across the board.

Key AI Act Provisions Related to EDPS Oversight

The **EU AI Act** contains several important provisions where the EDPS's role is explicitly or implicitly crucial.

Article 50: Transparency Requirements

Article 50 requires providers and deployers of high-risk AI systems to ensure transparency toward users. This means:



- **Clear disclosure:** Users must be informed when interacting with an AI system.
- **Comprehensible information:** The nature, purpose, and limitations of the AI system must be communicated in an accessible manner.
- **Accessibility:** Information should be compatible with assistive technologies such as screen readers and voice product interfaces, ensuring inclusivity for all users.

For example, a company like *Coruzant Technologies*—which develops complex AI-driven platforms—needs to be especially mindful of how disclosures are timed and phrased. The EDPS helps set best practices to ensure that these transparency obligations are meaningful, avoiding vague promises or disclosures hidden away in dense legal language.

Provider vs. Deployer Responsibility

A critical theme in AI Act enforcement is the distinction between *providers* and *deployers* of AI systems:

- **Providers** develop the AI system and are responsible for meeting technical and procedural requirements before placing the system on the market.

- **Deployers** activate and use the AI system in specific contexts and are accountable for ensuring its appropriate application, including ongoing monitoring and user transparency.

The EDPS supervises that both parties understand and fulfill their obligations, particularly within EU institutions, where lines can sometimes blur. This oversight helps prevent gaps in responsibility that can lead to misuse or harm.

Extraterritorial Reach Impacting Non-EU Companies

The EU AI Act applies not only to companies based within the EU but also exerts extraterritorial reach. Non-EU companies offering AI systems to EU users—including those deploying voice interfaces or data-processing platforms—must comply with transparency and safety standards. The *European Commission* works closely with the EDPS to monitor compliance, ensuring firms like *Coruzant Technologies* or others operating beyond Europe uphold EU rules when targeting EU markets.

Timing and User Interaction: When to Disclose

The timing of AI disclosures is another critical factor highlighted by Article 50 and scrutinized by the EDPS. Transparency must be provided at **the first point of interaction** with the AI system. For voice product interfaces, this means delivering a clear disclosure audibly, not buried in menus or terms of service. For screen reader users, the information must be accessible and easy to understand without confusing jargon.

This emphasis on upfront, understandable communication is crucial to avoiding user frustration and ensuring informed consent—key principles the EDPS champions.

The Role of Assistive Technologies in Enhancing Transparency

Modern AI products increasingly incorporate assistive technologies such as **screen readers** and **voice interfaces** to improve accessibility. The EDPS advocates for transparency disclosures compatible with these tools, ensuring that users with disabilities receive the same level of information about AI systems as other users.

- **Screen readers:** Disclosures must be structured so that screen readers can parse and vocalize them correctly, avoiding ambiguous or overly technical language.
- **Voice interfaces:** The AI should introduce itself clearly at first use, explaining its nature and functions audibly in a friendly tone.

This approach aligns with the EDPS's broader commitment to accessibility as a fundamental right, not just an add-on feature.

Challenges and Best Practices for Compliance

Companies and institutions often experience challenges aligning with the oversight role of the EDPS and AI Act requirements. Common areas of confusion include:

1. **Distinguishing provider versus deployer responsibilities:** Some organizations inaccurately assume transparency is solely the provider's duty, neglecting deployer obligations.
2. **Effective first-interaction disclosures:** Timing and mode of disclosures can be poorly executed, resulting in user dissatisfaction or non-compliance.
3. **Inclusion of non-EU entities:** Companies based outside the EU sometimes overlook the extraterritorial mandate.

4. **Accessibility oversights:** Disclosures incompatible with assistive technologies cause support tickets and erode trust.

Coruzant Technologies and others have adopted several best practices in response:

AI avatar disclosure

- Collaborating early with legal and accessibility teams to build compliant transparency messaging.
- Testing disclosures using actual screen readers and voice assistants to ensure clarity and accessibility.
- Clearly defining roles and responsibilities in contracts between providers and deployers.
- Training customer support teams to recognize and address support issues related to disclosure misunderstandings.

Conclusion: The EDPS as a Pillar of Trust in AI Governance

The **European Data Protection Supervisor** plays a vital role in overseeing the implementation and enforcement of the EU AI Act within European institutions and beyond. By focusing on transparency, provider and deployer responsibilities, extraterritorial enforcement, and accessibility-compliant disclosures, the EDPS helps ensure AI technologies serve the public good without compromising fundamental rights.

As AI continues to shape critical products and services—including those developed by companies like *Coruzant Technologies*—the EDPS's oversight provides a much-needed layer of accountability and trust. Its work, in partnership with the *European Commission* and other authorities, sets a global example for ethical AI innovation anchored in transparency and respect for human dignity.