

EU AI Act Readiness Quick Assessment

2026 Edition

A practical starting point for organisations developing, providing, deploying or using AI systems in the EU.

Important: This assessment is an informational screening aid. It is not legal advice, a conformity assessment, certification, or a determination of your obligations.

Last reviewed: 23 August 2026

Regulatory sources: European Commission / EU AI Act official materials.

1. Start with five questions

Use these questions to identify where a more detailed review may be useful. A “yes” does not by itself establish a legal classification.

Question	Your answer
1. Do you develop or provide AI systems?	Yes / No / Not sure
2. Do you deploy or use AI systems in your organisation?	Yes / No / Not sure
3. Do you provide or use a general-purpose AI model?	Yes / No / Not sure
4. Could an AI system you provide or use fall within a high-risk use case?	Yes / No / Not sure
5. Does your AI use involve areas such as employment, education, credit, biometrics, critical infrastructure, law enforcement, migration or justice?	Yes / No / Not sure

If you are unsure about several answers, treat that uncertainty as a reason to perform a more detailed inventory and screening rather than assuming that no obligations apply.

2. Your starting position

Mostly “No”

Your direct exposure may be limited, but you should still identify the AI systems used or provided by your organisation and check whether another role or obligation applies.

Mostly “Yes” to deployment or use

Start with an AI system inventory, identify your role in the AI value chain, and map each use case to the relevant AI Act requirements.

High-risk indicators present

Carry out a more detailed assessment of the specific use case, applicable Annex provisions, provider/deployer role and supporting evidence.

Many “Not sure” answers

You do not yet have enough information for a reliable screening conclusion. Build an inventory and document the facts before deciding what obligations apply.

Next step: AI Act Navigator's preliminary assessment can apply a deterministic screening model to operational inputs and return a preliminary classification, timeline and software capability matches.

3. 2026–2028 implementation snapshot

Date	Milestone	Practical meaning
2 February 2025	AI literacy and prohibitions	The first AI Act rules entered into application, including Article 4 AI literacy obligations.
2 August 2025	Governance and GPAI	Governance rules and obligations for general-purpose AI models became applicable.
2 August 2026	General application / transparency	The AI Act became applicable with exceptions; Article 50 transparency rules apply from this date, subject to specific transition arrangements.
2 December 2027	Certain high-risk AI systems	Following the 2026 AI Omnibus, high-risk rules for systems in certain Annex III areas apply from this date.
2 August 2028	High-risk AI embedded in regulated products	The extended transition for high-risk AI embedded in regulated products reaches this date.

Regulatory dates can change through legislation, delegated/implementing acts and official guidance. Re-check primary sources before making a compliance decision.

4. Build an AI system inventory

For each AI system, record enough factual information to support later classification and compliance work.

AI system	Purpose / use case	Provider	Owner / team	Role	Key risk / question

Useful facts to capture: what the system does, who provides it, who deploys it, who is affected, what decisions it supports, whether it uses a GPAI model, whether it generates/manipulates content, and whether it is connected to a regulated product.

5. Provider or deployer?

Provider: an organisation that develops an AI system or has an AI system developed and places it on the market or puts it into service under the AI Act framework.

Deployer: an organisation using an AI system under its authority in the course of its professional activity.

A real organisation can interact with AI systems in more than one capacity. Determine the role for each system rather than assigning one role to the whole company.

If the role is unclear, use the AI Act Navigator Provider vs Deployer guide before relying on a compliance assumption.

6. Five practical next steps

1. Inventory

Identify the AI systems your organisation actually provides or uses.

2. Establish the role

Record whether your organisation is acting as provider, deployer, GPAI provider or another relevant actor.

3. Screen the use case

Review prohibited-practice, transparency, GPAI and high-risk indicators.

4. Map evidence

Identify policies, technical documentation, risk records, testing, oversight and other evidence relevant to the applicable requirements.

5. Monitor changes

Track official EU sources and implementation guidance instead of relying on a static checklist.

Use the free AI Act Navigator assessment and requirement library to continue from this high-level screening into a more specific workflow.

7. Continue with AI Act Navigator

Preliminary AI Act Assessment

Apply operational inputs to a deterministic screening model and review a preliminary classification, active/future obligations and relevant software capabilities.

Provider vs Deployer

Review the practical distinction between common roles in the AI value chain.

Requirements Library

Browse AI Act requirements and the software capabilities mapped to them.

Verified Vendor Directory

Explore AI governance and compliance software with source-linked verification information.

Regulatory Timeline

Track active and preparation milestones and the official sources behind them.

ai-act-navigator-iota.vercel.app

Sources & methodology

This assessment uses primary European Commission materials and the EU AI Act framework as its regulatory reference point. It is deliberately designed as a starting-point tool rather than a legal conclusion.

European Commission — AI Act: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai>

European Commission — Navigating the AI Act: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/faqs/navigating-ai-act>

European Commission — AI Literacy Q&A: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/faqs/ai-literacy-questions-answers>

European Commission — Article 50 Transparency Q&A: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/faqs/transparency-obligations-under-article-50-ai-act>

EUR-Lex — Regulation (EU) 2024/1689: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>

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