Editorial

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The accelerated drive of digital transformation is redefining the social, political, and economic structures of Europe. In this context, artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a key technology with undeniable transformative potential, but also with risks that profoundly challenge the ethical boundaries, fundamental rights, and democratic foundations of European societies. Faced with these challenges, the European Union (EU) has positioned itself as a global leader in AI regulation, aiming to balance the promotion of innovation with the safeguarding of human rights.

This special issue of *Quaderns IEE*, coordinated by the research group *GLOBAL Security, Technology and INTErnational Law (GLOBAL INTEL)*,[1] brings together a selection of contributions presented at the *TechAndLaw[2]* conference, held on October 3, 2024. The dossier offers a critical, plural, and interdisciplinary perspective on the EU's role in AI governance, addressing the legal, ethical, and social issues raised by the deployment of this technology.

The monograph opens with an article by **Cottone**, which analyzes the growing role of AI in European migration management and reflects on how algorithmic systems can affect the protection of human rights in contexts of vulnerability, offering a critical rereading of the balance between security, efficiency, and human dignity. Next, **Beltran** delves into the issue of regulatory transparency, identifying persistent ambiguities and gaps in the European framework regarding the oversight of AI systems and their understandability to the general public. **Grima**, in turn, examines the constitutional implications of AI use in digital content moderation, focusing on the dilemmas between freedom of expression and hate speech, with special attention to the case of

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[1] GLOBAL INTEL is an emerging research group at the UAB, established in 2023 and funded by the Government of Catalonia (2021 SGR 00203). The group is composed of researchers from various areas of legal expertise who conduct joint research in the fields of human rights, data protection, security, international law, and climate change/sustainability. More information at: https://webs.uab.cat/globalintel/

[2] *I Congreso TechAndLaw. Retos legales del presente para los negocios digitales del mañana* (Barcelona, October 3, 2024). https://www.techandlaw.info/

antisemitism.

Rute's article explores the rights of data subjects in the age of AI, questioning to what extent the right to rectification can effectively protect individuals against erroneous inferences generated by automated systems. The dossier concludes with contributions by **Sundblad and Salaya**, who invite readers to explore an emerging horizon in the digital rights debate: neuro-rights. Their article raises fundamental questions about how to protect mental privacy and cognitive freedom in a technological environment marked by the rapid advancement of neurodigital technologies.

We hope this special issue contributes to fostering a critical and informed reflection on the paths the EU is taking in the field of artificial intelligence, and opens up new spaces for academic, legal, and political debate in an area that will be decisive for Europe's future.

UAB, Cerdanyola del Vallès, June 26, 2025