

LAW, DEMOCRACY AND RISK IN THE AGE OF AI:

ACADEMIC REFLECTIONS ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON AI

**Academic panel on the first anniversary of the opening for signature of the
Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and
Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law**

PANEL OVERVIEW

This academic panel offers a timely opportunity to critically reflect on how the Council of Europe's new "Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law" engages with key constitutional values and policy challenges. One year after its opening for signature, the Convention continues to shape legal and political thinking around the governance of artificial intelligence (AI)—especially in terms of how to safeguard rights-based principles such as the rule of law and democratic integrity, and how to identify, assess and mitigate risks.

The panel brings together academic experts and members of the Bureau of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) for a structured exchange. Academics will present on core themes of the Convention—the **Rule of Law, Democracy, and Assessment of Risks and Impacts of AI**—offering theoretical and methodological insights. Their interventions will be followed by responses from CAI Bureau members, reflecting on the Convention's regulatory architecture, the negotiation process and implementation prospects. The panel will conclude with an open discussion with the audience (Q&A session).

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Each segment of the panel will include a 15-minute academic presentation, providing a theoretical and critical perspective on a selected topic, followed by a 10-minute response from a CAI Bureau member reflecting on the Framework Convention's approach, content, negotiation background, and regulatory strengths and weaknesses. The panel will be followed by a brief moderated discussion (Q&A session, optional, time permitting).

DATE, TIME & LOCATION

5 September 2025

Complutense University of Madrid

10am – 12.30pm

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PANEL PROGRAMME

OPENING REMARKS

- **Ms Albina OVCEARENCO**, Head of the Digital Development Unit and Secretary to the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) of the Council of Europe.
- **Mr David DE FRANCISCO MARCOS**, Deputy Director General of Promotion and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence, Spanish Ministry of Digital Transformation.
- **Mr José María COELLO DE PORTUGAL MARTÍNEZ DEL PERAL**, Vice Rector of Institutional Relationships, Complutense University of Madrid.
- **Mr José Manuel ALMUDÍ CID**, Dean of the Law School, Complutense University of Madrid.

PANEL MODERATOR

- **Mr Mario HERNÁNDEZ RAMOS**, Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) and Professor of Constitutional Law, Complutense University of Madrid.

TOPIC 1: RULE OF LAW AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How to address an issue both risky and promising?

- **Prof. Rafael BUSTOS GIBERT**, Professor of Constitutional Law, Complutense University of Madrid; Member for Spain of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.
- **Ms Isil Selen DENEMEC**, Bureau Member of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI).

TOPIC 2: DEMOCRACY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI as an ally to safeguard the democratic process and electoral integrity: a technological approach

- **Prof. Lara QUIJANO SÁNCHEZ**, Professor of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.
- **Ms Maria NORDSTRÖM**, Bureau Member of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI).

TOPIC 3: RISK AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF AI SYSTEMS

Sufficiency and adequacy of methodological proposals in risk and impact assessment

- **Prof. Pere SIMÓN CASTELLANO**, Professor of Constitutional Law, La Rioja International University.
- **Mr Jordi ASCENSI SALA**, Bureau Member of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI).

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Mr Thomas SCHNEIDER**, Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI).
- **Mr Mario HERNÁNDEZ RAMOS**, Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) and Professor of Constitutional Law, Complutense University of Madrid.

