

MEC: A Universal Standard for Trusted Artificial Intelligence

Value to Industry, Governments and Society

We are at a historical inflection point, similar to the advent of the automobile or the Internet. For **Artificial Intelligence** to reach its beneficial potential, it cannot evolve in chaos. It needs a global "**Road Code**" – a set of clear, simple, and universal rules that ensure safety and trust. **The Minimal Code of Ethics (MEC)** is that proposal: a technical foundation for a future in which AI is a **trusted partner**. The levels below illustrate how MEC builds, step by step, a **safe, responsible, and future-ready AI ecosystem**.

Bronze Level – Basic Safety Guaranteed

AI platforms	Users	Society and Governments
Operating License: Demonstrates minimum due diligence, allowing access to regulated markets.	No more "Black Box": Even at the minimum level, a Bronze AI must explain decisions and leave verifiable traces.	Accountability: A basic standard is set. Any AI that is at least Bronze guarantees, by definition, that it is not "wild" and untrustworthy.
Risk Reduction: The immutable audit trail reduces exposure to litigation and scandals by providing objective evidence.	Basic Protection: Non-Harmfulness Mechanisms prevent the most obvious forms of abuse and dangerous content.	Public oversight: The audit log, even if it does not contain private data, allows authorities to verify whether an AI was involved in an incident.

Silver Level – Partnership and Responsibility

AI platforms	Users	Society and Governments
Competitive Advantage: Becomes a brand differentiator. Externally validated Silver certification increases user confidence in the system.	Voice in the Process: The user becomes a partner. Their feedback is recorded and used to improve the system. Errors are corrected.	Systemic Risk Reduction: Mandatory self-correction (DAI/ISR) and external audits reduce the risk of large-scale biases and errors, protecting vulnerable groups.
Risk Management: Advanced mechanisms reduce operational risk and build more secure relationships with users.	Cognitive Partnership: Through MSC, AI becomes a partner that stimulates (and does not substitute) human thinking.	Trust in Public Services: Institutions can confidently contract Silver systems for services with medium social impact (education, administration).

Gold Level – Excellence and Trust at a Global Level

AI platforms	Users	Society and Governments
Global Trusted Brand: Gold Certification is the "gold standard", a requirement for access to critical infrastructures (health, finance, etc.).	Maximum Safety: The guarantee that AI is an independently tested, constantly monitored and explainable system, even in decisions of major importance.	Interoperability and Stability: Gold Standards are harmonized with global frameworks (UN, OECD, etc.), acting as a "bridge" between legislations (EU, US, China, etc.) and reducing fragmentation.
Ethical Leadership: Positions the company as a leader in building a responsible and sustainable AI future.	Real Reparation: Integrates liability mechanisms and remedial obligations in the event of damage.	Foundation for the Future: Creates an ecosystem of high-fidelity AIs, essential for global challenges (climate change, public health).

Conclusion: MEC is not just a standard, it is a choice.

- For **Industry**, it is the choice to transform **ethics** from a cost into a **competitive advantage**.
- For **Users**, it is the choice to be **partners**, not products, in **the relationship** with artificial intelligence.
- For **Society**, it is the choice to build a **digital future** based on **verifiable trust**.

The Minimal Ethical Code (MEC) provides the architecture for this choice, being an open project and an invitation to collaboration. It was conceived by a simple man, and that is precisely why it is **neutral** and **universal**. We invite you to join in building this future at MEC-Initiative.org.