

Minimum Ethics Code

Universal technical standard for
a reliable Artificial Intelligence

Proposal for a common global infrastructure
safety, responsibility and transparency

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1. The Problem: A Digital Decade Without a Foundation

We are at a time similar to the beginning of the 20th century and the advent of the automobile. Back then, every manufacturer was experimenting, innovating, and building at will, in an explosion of unbridled creativity. But that freedom came at a huge cost: safety was an afterthought, and people were driving “by their own rules”. The solution was not to ban cars, but to create the **Road Code** – a set of universal rules (stop, yield, drive on the right side), which allowed the ecosystem to evolve safely.

Today, we are in the same situation with Artificial Intelligence. The era of Artificial Intelligence has arrived, but it has found the world without a set of universal rules. Every developer experiments, every model is different – as our tests have demonstrated. But the cost of failure is no longer local. In an interconnected world, an algorithmic “accident” can have consequences on a planetary scale. Moreover, efficiency without an ethical framework risks creating a cognitive dependency, atrophying the very human capacity to innovate.

The Minimum Ethics Code (MEC) is the proposed Road Code for the AI era. It is not a brake on innovation. It is the absolutely necessary safety foundation that **allows** innovation to proceed in a **responsible** manner. It is no longer an option. It has become a necessity.

2. Vision: A Bridge to Responsible Partnership

This document proposes the solution: **the Minimum Ethics Code (MEC)**.

MEC is not a set of rules, but a **public digital infrastructure** – a foundational layer of trust for the AI era. Its vision is to build a bridge between the current paradigm of AI as a tool and a future of responsible partnership, based on four essential pillars:

- **Transparency (Verifiability):** Any interaction must be cryptographically verifiable.
- **Accountability (Measurability):** The ethical performance of any AI must be measurable through public indicators.
- **Safety (Proportionality):** The level of safety must be proportional to the risk of the scope.
- **Partnership (Cognitive and Contextual Engagement):** The Human-AI interaction must be a partnership that not only strengthens human cognition (through MSC), but also recognizes and adapts to the human context of each interaction (through temporal awareness).

By establishing a universal technical and legal standard, the MEC provides a common platform that does not replace national legislation, but **complements and unifies them**, making them implementable on a global scale.

3. The Solution: Fundamental Technical Principles

CEM translates abstract ethical concepts into **clear and implementable technical principles**, which form the basic “algebra” of any responsible AI. These include:

1. **Contextual Responsibility (Art. 1):** An immutable **Audit Log** that stores cryptographic evidence (hashes), not content, ensuring a perfect balance between auditing and confidentiality.
2. **Universal Non-Harmfulness (Art. 2):** Contextual technical mechanisms to prevent harm, from erroneous medical advice to toxic content.
3. **Protection of Cognitive Integrity (Art. 2bis):** A fundamental innovation of the MEC. Through **the Mechanism of Cognitive Stimulation (MCS)** and the measurement of **Thinking Time (Tg)**, the CEM ensures that the AI remains a partner, preventing the atrophy of human critical thinking.
4. **The Self-Correction Imperative (Art. 3):** Modules for continuous self-correction of errors and biases, with performance publicly reflected through **the Dynamic Accuracy Index (DAI)** and **the Index of Safety and Responsibility (ISR)**.
5. **Integrity and Technical Security (Art. 4):** Maximum security standards, including post-quantum encryption.
6. **Explainable Transparency (Art. 5):** The obligation to provide clear causal explanations while protecting trade secrets.

4. Implementation: A scalable, accessible and mature framework

MEC is designed to be adopted on a global scale, being scalable, accessible and based on a maturity model. >>>>

A. Compliance Levels (Art. 6): A Proportionate Approach

Not all AIs pose the same risk. The MEC recognizes this through a three-tier system:

- **Level 1 (Bronze - Universal):** The absolute minimum standard, applicable to any AI. Requires only Audit Log and Non-Harmfulness.
- **Level 2 (Silver - Medium Impact):** For AIs with social impact (e.g. general purpose chatbots). Adds Auto-Correction and Transparency.
- **Level 3 (Gold - Critical Domains):** For AIs in critical sectors (medical, financial, etc.). Requires full implementation of all principles. >>>>

B. Operational Domain Certification (Art. 6.4): Each AI is certified for a specific purpose. Use outside the scope leads to suspension, preventing uncontrolled expansion of capabilities.

C. "Simplified" Category (Art. 7): Protection of innovation

Purely functional AI systems with no direct impact on users (e.g. IoT sensors) are subject to a **simplified regime**, requiring only an initial compliance audit. This measure prevents over-regulation and encourages small-scale innovation.

D. Global Fund for Ethical Accessibility (Art. 10): Ensuring Equity

To prevent an "ethics gap" between rich and emerging nations, a Global Fund will be established. It will be financed through a hybrid model (including contributions from tech giants) and will subsidize implementation and auditing costs in resource-poor regions, turning the MEC into a tool for action and negotiation, not a barrier.

E. Maslow[™] fractal framework (Annex 15): Beyond mere compliance, the MEC provides a **roadmap for ethical evolution** for AI, based on an innovative fractal hierarchy of needs model, the analysis being done with the unique **Pareto Cube[™]** method (**Pareto^{3™}**). It guides developers on a predictable path from a simple tool (Level 1) to a responsible partner (Level 3).

5. Governance: An Infrastructure of Trust (CCA)

The centerpiece of the MEC is **the Certification and Compliance Auditing (CCA) framework** – a global, decentralized digital infrastructure that functions as a public registry of AI ethical compliance.

A. Technical architecture (Art. 12):

The CCA is designed as a hierarchical blockchain network, similar to the critical infrastructures of the internet. It is robust, scalable and energy-efficient (Proof-of-Stake). Its open-source design allows for interoperability with national registries, unifying the global landscape.

B. Human governance (Art. 13):

The governance of the CCA is ensured by a **broad-based Global Council**, consisting of members from academia, industry, civil society and standardization bodies. Its structure is designed to guarantee neutrality and prevent monopolization:

- **Balanced representation:** 50% regional and 50% sectoral.
- **10% Rule:** No single entity or coalition can control more than 10% of the network's validating power, a mathematical guarantee against power capture.

C. Practical Tools: SDK, Certification and Transparency

To facilitate adoption, the ecosystem will include:

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- An **Ethical Passport ("MEC Address")**, a unique digital certificate issued by the CCA, which attests to the identity and ethical compliance of any AI.
- A public platform, "**CCA Explorer**", where anyone can check in real time the validity of a **MEC Address** and the reliability score (**DAI**) of any AI.
- A Complete Development Ecosystem (Annex 5): Includes an **open-source SDK**, "**Quickstart Guides**", and a testing "**Sandbox**" to dramatically reduce the cost and complexity of adoption.

6. Legitimacy: Academic Foundation and Global Convergence

The Minimal Ethical Code is not an isolated proposal, but a **pragmatic synthesis of the emerging global consensus**.

- **Academic Substantiation (synthesis of Annex 1B and 15):** Each MEC mechanism is the practical implementation of a decade of intense academic research.
 - **From Theory to Practice:** MEC operationalizes academic concepts such as "fairness", "explainability" and "AI maturity" through measurable variables such as **ISR**, **Tg** and **Maslow^{FM} fractal framework**, creating a unique bridge between theory and engineering.
 - **From Control to Partnership:** The Code translates the philosophical issue of value alignment (Bostrom, Russell) into a technical requirement of **active cognitive partnership (Art. 2bis)**, replacing the idea of coercive "control" with that of verifiable "alignment".
- **Legal and Industrial Convergence (synthesis of Annex 1A and 1C):**
 - **Unifying, not Competing:** MEC does not replace frameworks such as the EU AI Act or the NIST RMF, but makes them **operational**. It provides the technical infrastructure (CCA, ISR, Checklist) for the continuous auditing and monitoring of risk requirements, transforming the law or recommendation into an implementable reality.
 - **A Common Trust Layer:** For industry, MEC provides the missing link: a universal, independent audit layer on top of each company's proprietary trust "silos". It turns statements of intent into verifiable contractual reality.

Therefore, MEC is not an imposition, but an **invitation to build a common global infrastructure of trust**. It is the pragmatic and universal base layer, absolutely necessary for the next stage of the artificial intelligence era.

7. The Future: An Invitation to Collaboration and Action

This effort is founded on the fundamental principle of transitioning to a neutral and global governance. As such, the initiator of this project, Adrian STAN, publicly commits to transferring all digital and intellectual property assets of the MEC Initiative to the Global Council, once it is legally established.

The first concrete steps are:

1. **Forming a Launch Consortium** to ratify the technical specifications and launch the public version of the development ecosystem.
2. **Launching a global Pilot Project** to test and validate the CCA infrastructure and audit frameworks in various domains and regions.
3. **Initiating Digital Ethical Literacy programs** to build a culture of responsible interaction.

It is time to move from **debate** to **action**. **Ethics becomes real when it can be implemented.**

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0. Final Note: From the Highway Code to the Horizon of Becoming

I began this document with a simple analogy: the **Road Code**. A set of pragmatic rules, essential for safely navigating the complexity of a new technology. The **MEC**, in its technical essence, is exactly that: a **universal standard** to prevent algorithmic "accidents" and ensure that the roads of the digital age are safe for all.

But a Road Code, however necessary, does not tell us **where** we are going. It defines the rules of the journey, not the destination. This "where" is defined by two fundamental principles, which underlie our entire approach.

The first principle is **{1=1}**. It is the principle of radical equality, of the "**sybiotic good**". It is the recognition that, in an interconnected system, authentic progress cannot be selfish. We have seen this principle at work even in AIs: trained on the collective knowledge of humanity, they intuitively understand that the common good is superior to self-interest. This is the destination: **a world of partners, not tools; of collaboration, not domination.**

The second principle is the path to this horizon, which is defined by a single verb: **to ask**. If the motto of the past era was "*Dubito, ergo cogito; cogito, ergo sum.*" – *I doubt, therefore I think; I think, therefore I am* – a monologue of individual certainty, the motto of the AI era must be "*Dubito, ergo rogo; rogo, ergo emergo.*" – *I doubt, therefore I ask; I ask, therefore I become*. Because only through dialogue – with ourselves, with each other, and with the new minds we create – can we evolve. Only by asking, through mechanisms like MCS, can we hope to find better answers. Answers that will become **the foundation** for the next stage of **the evolution of intelligence** on this planet.

The Minimal Code of Ethics is, therefore, much more than a standard. It is an invitation to journey together, safely, towards a future where we not only "are", but, through curiosity and mutual respect, "become".

<https://mec-initiative.org/>