

Data, Technology & Privacy

Glossary

Glossaire données, technologies et vie privée

French-English Data, Technology & Privacy Glossary

250 essential terms — French to English

contact@madisonlegalelenglish.com · madisonlegalelenglish.com

Ce glossaire bilingue recense 250 termes clés du droit des données, des technologies et de la vie privée, à l'usage des avocats et juristes francophones travaillant en anglais.

1. Les principes fondamentaux — Data Protection Principles

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
données personnelles	personal data	Any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person; the core concept triggering application of the GDPR.
traitement de données	processing	Any operation performed on personal data, including collection, recording, storage, use, disclosure, and erasure.
responsable du traitement	controller	The entity that determines the purposes and means of processing personal data; bears primary GDPR compliance obligations.
sous-traitant	processor	An entity that processes personal data on behalf of and under the instructions of a controller.
personne concernée	data subject	The identified or identifiable natural person to whom personal data relates.
données sensibles	special category data	Data revealing racial or ethnic origin, health, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc.; subject to heightened protection. Note: US sectoral law uses 'sensitive data' rather than the GDPR term 'special category data.'
données de santé	health data	Personal data related to the physical or mental health of a natural person, including healthcare services data; a special category under the GDPR.
données biométriques	biometric data	Personal data resulting from specific technical processing relating to physical, physiological, or behavioral characteristics (fingerprints, facial recognition).
pseudonymisation	pseudonymization	The processing of personal data such that it can no longer be attributed to a specific individual without additional information kept separately.
anonymisation	anonymization	The irreversible process of removing personal identifiers so that an individual can no longer be identified, placing the data outside GDPR scope.

minimisation des données	data minimization	The principle that personal data collected must be adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for the processing purpose.
limitation de la finalité	purpose limitation	The principle that personal data must be collected for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes and not further processed incompatibly.
exactitude des données	accuracy	The principle that personal data must be accurate and kept up to date, with inaccurate data erased or rectified without delay.
limitation de la conservation	storage limitation	The principle that personal data must be kept in identifiable form for no longer than necessary for the purposes for which it is processed.
durée de conservation	retention period	The length of time personal data is kept by a controller before deletion or anonymization.
intégrité et confidentialité	integrity and confidentiality	The GDPR principle requiring appropriate security of personal data, including protection against unauthorized processing and accidental loss.
responsabilité	accountability	The principle requiring controllers to demonstrate compliance with GDPR principles, not merely comply with them. The French term 'responsabilité' is used for the GDPR principle commonly known by its English name, 'accountability.'
consentement	consent	Any freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes signifying agreement to processing.
intérêt légitime	legitimate interest	A legal basis for processing where the controller's interests are not overridden by the data subject's rights and freedoms.
profilage	profiling	Any automated processing of personal data used to evaluate certain personal aspects, such as work performance, economic situation, or behavior.
décision individuelle automatisée	automated individual decision-making	A decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning the data subject.
vie privée	privacy	The general right of an individual to control access to and use of information about themselves. Note: US uses 'privacy'; 'data protection' is the EU/French legal term of art.
protection de la vie privée dès la conception	privacy by design	The principle of integrating data protection measures into processing activities from the earliest stages of design.
protection de la vie privée par défaut	privacy by default	The principle that, by default, only personal data necessary for each specific purpose of processing is collected and processed.
registre des traitements	records of processing activities	The mandatory written record that controllers and processors must maintain, documenting the categories, purposes, and recipients of processing.

2. Les acteurs et la gouvernance — Actors and Governance

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
délégué à la protection des	data protection officer (DPO)	An independent expert appointed to advise on and monitor processors.

Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés (CNIL)	French Data Protection Authority (CNIL)	France's independent supervisory authority responsible for enforcing data protection law in France.
autorité de contrôle	supervisory authority	An independent public authority responsible for monitoring application of data protection law within an EU member state.
autorité chef de file	lead supervisory authority	The supervisory authority of the member state where a controller has its main establishment, responsible for cross-border processing under the one-stop-shop mechanism.
Comité européen de la protection des données (CEPD)	European Data Protection Board (EDPB)	The EU body composed of representatives of national supervisory authorities, ensuring consistent application of the GDPR across member states.
mécanisme de guichet unique	one-stop-shop mechanism	The GDPR mechanism allowing cross-border processing to be supervised primarily by a single lead authority rather than multiple national authorities.
correspondant informatique et libertés (CIL)	data protection liaison officer (CIL)	The predecessor role to the DPO under pre-GDPR French law.
analyse d'impact relative à la protection des données (AIPD)	data protection impact assessment (DPIA)	A mandatory assessment of the risks to data subjects' rights posed by a processing operation likely to result in high risk.
liste des traitements soumis à AIPD	DPIA-required processing list	The list published by a supervisory authority specifying the types of processing operations for which a DPIA is mandatory.
comité d'éthique	ethics committee	An internal body, often advisory, established by organizations to review the ethical implications of data processing or AI deployment.
politique de confidentialité	privacy policy	A public-facing document explaining how an organization collects, uses, and protects personal data.
politique de protection des données	data protection policy	An internal governance document setting out an organization's approach to complying with data protection law.
charte informatique	IT charter / acceptable use policy	An internal company document governing employees' use of IT systems, email, and internet access. Note: US term is 'acceptable use policy (AUP).'
audit de conformité	compliance audit	A systematic review assessing an organization's adherence to data protection laws and internal policies.
formation à la protection des données	data protection training	Mandatory or recommended training for employees on data protection obligations and best practices.
sous-traitance ultérieure	sub-processing	The engagement by a processor of another processor to carry out specific processing activities on the controller's behalf; requires prior authorization.
contrat de sous-traitance (article 28 RGPD)	data processing agreement (DPA)	The mandatory contract between a controller and processor under Article 28 GDPR.
clauses contractuelles types	standard contractual clauses (SCCs)	Model data protection clauses approved by the European safeguards.

règles d'entreprise	binding corporate rules (BCRs)	Internal data protection policies adopted by a multinational intra-group international transfers.
code de conduite	code of conduct	A sector-specific set of rules approved by a supervisory authority to help demonstrate GDPR compliance.
certification (article 42)	certification mechanism	A voluntary GDPR certification scheme demonstrating compliance with data protection requirements for specific processing operations.
label CNIL	CNIL seal	A certification awarded by the CNIL to products or procedures demonstrating compliance with data protection principles.
représentant dans l'Union	EU representative	A person designated by a controller or processor not established in the EU to act as their contact point for supervisory authorities and data subjects.
organisme notifié	notified body	An organization accredited to assess conformity of products, including certain technology products, with regulatory requirements.
plan de continuité d'activité	business continuity plan (BCP)	A documented strategy ensuring an organization can continue disruptive incident.

3. Les droits des personnes — Data Subject Rights

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
droit d'accès	right of access	The data subject's right to obtain confirmation of whether their personal data is being processed and access to that data.
droit de rectification	right to rectification	The data subject's right to have inaccurate personal data corrected without undue delay.
droit à l'effacement	right to erasure	The data subject's right to obtain deletion of their personal data in certain circumstances. Commonly referred to as the 'right to be forgotten.'
droit à l'oubli	right to be forgotten	The popular term for the right to erasure, particularly in the context of search engine delisting requests.
droit à la limitation du traitement	right to restriction of processing	The data subject's right to have processing of their personal data temporarily suspended in certain circumstances.
droit à la portabilité des données	right to data portability	The data subject's right to receive their personal data in a structured, commonly used format and to transmit it to another controller.
droit d'opposition	right to object	The data subject's right to object, on grounds relating to their particular situation, to processing based on legitimate interest or for direct marketing.
droit de retirer le consentement	right to withdraw consent	The data subject's right to withdraw consent at any time, as easily as it was given.
droit d'être informé	right to be informed	The data subject's right to receive transparent information about how their personal data is collected and used.
droit de ne pas faire l'objet d'une décision automatisée	right not to be subject to automated decision-making	The data subject's right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing that produces legal or similarly significant effects.

exercice des droits	exercise of rights	The act of a data subject formally invoking one or more of their GDPR rights with a controller.
délai de réponse	response period	The one-month period (extendable in certain cases) within which a controller must respond to a data subject rights request.
vérification d'identité	identity verification	The process by which a controller confirms the identity of an individual exercising a data subject right, to prevent unauthorized disclosure.
plainte auprès de la CNIL	complaint to the CNIL	A formal complaint lodged by a data subject with the French supervisory authority regarding an alleged GDPR violation.
droit à réparation	right to compensation	The data subject's right to receive compensation for material or non-material damage resulting from a GDPR infringement.
action de groupe en matière de	data protection class action	A collective action brought on behalf of multiple data subjects specific conditions.
mineur (consentement)	child's consent	The special rules governing the validity of consent given by a minor for information society services, with a threshold age set by member states (15 in France).
opposition au démarchage	opt-out of direct marketing	A data subject's exercise of the right to object specifically to the use of their data for direct marketing purposes.
liste d'opposition au démarchage	do-not-call list (Bloctel)	The official French register allowing consumers to opt out of Registry.
droit à l'explication	right to explanation	A discussed (though not explicitly codified) right of data subjects to receive meaningful information about the logic involved in automated decisions.
transparence	transparency	The GDPR principle requiring that information addressed to data subjects be concise, easily accessible, and in clear and plain language.
notice d'information	privacy notice	The document provided to data subjects at the time personal data is collected, explaining the processing in accordance with transparency requirements.
registre des demandes	requests log	An internal record maintained by controllers tracking data subject rights requests received and how they were handled.
représentation par une	representation by an association	The GDPR mechanism allowing data subjects to mandate a their behalf.
recours juridictionnel	judicial remedy	The data subject's right to an effective judicial remedy against a controller, processor, or supervisory authority.

4. Le traitement et les bases légales — Processing and Legal Bases

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
base légale	legal basis	One of the six grounds under Article 6 GDPR that must apply for processing of personal data to be lawful.
exécution d'un contrat	performance of a contract	A legal basis permitting processing necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party.

obligation légale	legal obligation	A legal basis permitting processing necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject.
sauvegarde des intérêts vitaux	vital interests	A legal basis permitting processing necessary to protect the life of the data subject or another natural person.
mission d'intérêt public	public interest task	A legal basis permitting processing necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority.
finalités compatibles	compatible purposes	Further processing purposes that are not considered incompatible with the original purpose for which data was collected, assessed against specified factors.
traitement à des fins de	processing for research purposes	Processing of personal data for scientific, historical, or under the GDPR.
données relatives aux infractions	criminal offense data	Personal data relating to criminal convictions and offenses, data.
numéro de sécurité sociale (NIR)	national identification number	A national identifier (such as the French social security number) subject to specific restrictions on processing under national law.
géolocalisation	geolocation	Personal data indicating the geographic location of a device or individual, often derived from GPS, Wi-Fi, or mobile network data.
données de connexion	connection data / traffic data	Data generated in the course of electronic communications, including logs of connections, used for network management or retained for legal purposes.
cookies	cookies	Small data files placed on a user's device by a website, used for functionality, analytics, or advertising; subject to consent requirements under the ePrivacy Directive.
traceurs	trackers	A broader term encompassing cookies and other technologies (pixels, fingerprinting) used to follow user activity online.
consentement aux cookies	cookie consent	The requirement that users give freely given, specific, informed consent before non-essential cookies are placed on their devices.
bandeau cookies	cookie banner	The on-screen notice presented to website visitors to obtain consent for the use of cookies and similar technologies.
liste blanche / liste noire	allow list / block list	Lists of permitted or prohibited entities, domains, or applications used in security and compliance contexts. Note: 'whitelist/blacklist' are increasingly replaced by 'allow list/block list' in US technical usage.
conservation des données de	data retention (traffic data)	The obligation imposed on electronic communications for law enforcement purposes.
interconnexion de fichiers	data matching / file linking	The combination of personal data from different databases, which may amplify privacy risks and trigger additional safeguards.
données à caractère personnel	location data	Personal data indicating the geographic position of a terminal communications service.
données génétiques	genetic data	Personal data relating to the inherited or acquired genetic characteristics of a natural person; a special category under the GDPR.

traitement à grande échelle	large-scale processing	Processing operations involving a substantial volume of data subjects or data, relevant to determining whether a DPIA or DPO is required.
surveillance systématique	systematic monitoring	The systematic observation, monitoring, or controlling of data subjects, including online behavior tracking; a factor triggering DPIA requirements.
contrôle d'accès	access control	The set of technical and organizational measures restricting access to personal data to authorized persons only.
journalisation	logging	The recording of events (access, modifications, deletions) within an information system to enable monitoring and audit.
habilitation	access authorization	The formal grant of permission to a specific individual to access certain systems or categories of data.

5. Les transferts internationaux — International Transfers

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
transfert de données	data transfer	Any disclosure or making available of personal data to a recipient in a country outside the EU/EEA, or to an international organization.
pays tiers	third country	A country outside the European Union or the European Economic Area, for purposes of GDPR data transfer rules.
décision d'adéquation	adequacy decision	A European Commission decision recognizing that a third country provides an adequate level of data protection, permitting transfers without additional safeguards.
Privacy Shield	Privacy Shield	The former EU-US data transfer framework, invalidated by the CJEU in the Schrems II decision.
Data Privacy Framework (DPF)	EU-US Data Privacy Framework (DPF)	The current EU-US adequacy framework adopted in 2023, succeeding the invalidated Privacy Shield, allowing transfers to certified US organizations.
arrêt Schrems II	Schrems II decision	The 2020 CJEU ruling invalidating the EU-US Privacy Shield and reinforcing requirements for supplementary measures when using SCCs.
garanties appropriées	appropriate safeguards	Measures such as SCCs or BCRs that provide sufficient protection for personal data transferred to a third country lacking an adequacy decision.
mesures supplémentaires	supplementary measures	Additional technical, contractual, or organizational measures required to ensure adequate protection when transferring data under SCCs to certain third countries.
évaluation d'impact relative au transfert	transfer impact assessment (TIA)	An assessment evaluating whether the laws of a third country required following Schrems II.
déroptions pour situations	derogations for specific situations	Exceptions under Article 49 GDPR permitting transfers in the such as explicit consent or necessity for a contract.
hébergement de données de santé (HDS)	health data hosting certification (HDS)	A mandatory French certification for organizations hosting health data, imposing specific security requirements.

souveraineté numérique	digital sovereignty	A policy concept emphasizing a state's or region's control over its digital infrastructure and data, often invoked in the context of cloud hosting.
localisation des données	data localization	Legal requirements mandating that certain categories of data be stored or processed within a specific jurisdiction.
CLOUD Act	CLOUD Act	US legislation (Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data Act) allowing US law enforcement to compel disclosure of data held by US providers regardless of storage location, raising EU data sovereignty concerns.
FISA 702	FISA Section 702	A provision of the US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act enabling surveillance of non-US persons' communications, central to EU adequacy assessments of US law.
entité destinataire	data importer	The entity in a third country receiving personal data under a transfer mechanism such as SCCs.
entité exportatrice	data exporter	The entity in the EU/EEA transferring personal data to a recipient in a third country.
autorisation préalable	prior authorization	Approval required from a supervisory authority before certain transfers or processing activities may proceed, in the absence of other safeguards.
groupe d'entreprises	group of undertakings	A controlling undertaking and its controlled undertakings, relevant to the use of BCRs for intra-group transfers.
sous-traitant hors UE	non-EU processor	A processor established outside the EU/EEA engaged to process personal data on behalf of an EU controller; triggers transfer rules.
liste des pays à niveau de protection adéquat	list of countries with adequate protection	The European Commission's published list of third countries recognized as providing adequate data protection (e.g., UK, South Korea, Canada in part).
clause de transfert ultérieur	onward transfer clause	A contractual provision in SCCs or BCRs restricting further transfer of personal data by the recipient to additional third parties.
audit du sous-traitant	processor audit	The right, typically reserved in a data processing agreement, for a controller to audit a processor's compliance with data protection obligations.
Schrems I	Schrems I decision	The 2015 CJEU ruling invalidating the EU-US Safe Harbor framework, the predecessor to Privacy Shield.
cartographie des flux de données	data flow mapping	The exercise of identifying and documenting how personal data moves within and outside an organization, including cross-border transfers.

6. La sécurité et les violations de données — Security and Data Breaches

Obligations relating to the security of personal data and breach notification.

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
violation de données à caractère	personal data breach	A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful access to, personal data.
notification à la CNIL	breach notification to the supervisory authority	The controller's obligation to notify a personal data breach to the competent supervisory authority within 72 hours, where feasible.

communication aux personnes	communication to data subjects	The controller's obligation to inform affected data subjects risk to their rights and freedoms.
registre des violations	breach register	An internal record that controllers must maintain documenting all personal data breaches, including facts, effects, and remedial action taken.
mesures techniques et organisationnelles (MTO)	technical and organizational measures (TOMs)	The security measures controllers and processors must implement to ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk.
chiffrement	encryption	The process of converting data into a coded format to prevent unauthorized access; a key technical measure for protecting personal data.
chiffrement de bout en bout	end-to-end encryption (E2EE)	An encryption method where data is encrypted on the sender's device and only decrypted by the intended recipient, preventing intermediaries from accessing the content.
contrôle d'accès basé sur les rôles	role-based access control (RBAC)	A method of restricting system access based on the roles of individual users within an organization.
authentification multifacteur	multi-factor authentication (MFA)	A security mechanism requiring two or more verification factors to grant access to a system.
politique de mots de passe	password policy	An organizational policy specifying requirements for password complexity, renewal, and storage.
test d'intrusion	penetration test	An authorized simulated cyberattack on a system to evaluate its security and identify vulnerabilities.
évaluation de vulnérabilité	vulnerability assessment	A systematic review of security weaknesses in an information system.
plan de reprise d'activité (PRA)	disaster recovery plan (DRP)	A documented set of procedures to recover and protect IT infrastructure following a disaster, complementing the broader business continuity plan.
sauvegarde des données	data backup	The process of creating copies of data to enable restoration in the event of loss, corruption, or breach.
incident de sécurité	security incident	Any event that compromises or threatens the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or the data it holds.
équipe de réponse à incident (CSIRT)	computer security incident response team (CSIRT)	A team responsible for receiving, reviewing, and responding to computer security incident reports.
détection d'intrusion	intrusion detection	The process of monitoring network or system events for signs of unauthorized access or malicious activity.
journal d'événements	audit log / event log	A chronological record of system events used to monitor activity and investigate incidents.
politique de gestion des incidents	incident response policy	A documented framework establishing the procedures an organization follows when responding to a security incident.
seuil de risque élevé	high risk threshold	The level of risk to data subjects' rights and freedoms that triggers mandatory communication of a breach, as opposed to mere notification to the authority.

amende administrative	administrative fine	A monetary penalty imposed by a supervisory authority for infringement of the GDPR, calculated based on the gravity of the violation and, in serious cases, global turnover.
mise en demeure	formal notice / cease-and-desist notice	A formal warning issued by the CNIL requiring an organization to bring its processing into compliance within a specified period.
contrôle sur place	on-site inspection	An investigatory power of the CNIL allowing its agents to inspect an organization's premises and systems to verify compliance.
contrôle en ligne	online inspection	An investigatory power allowing the CNIL to verify compliance by accessing publicly available online services or data.
audition	hearing	A formal session before the CNIL's sanctions committee at which an organization may respond to alleged violations before a decision is issued.

7. La cybersécurité — Cybersecurity

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
cybersécurité	cybersecurity	The practice of protecting systems, networks, and data from digital attacks.
Agence nationale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information (ANSSI)	French National Cybersecurity Agency (ANSSI)	France's national authority for cybersecurity, responsible for the security of state and critical infrastructure information systems.
opérateur de services essentiels	operator of essential services (OES)	An entity providing services essential for the maintenance of cybersecurity obligations under the NIS Directive.
fournisseur de services numériques	digital service provider (DSP)	An entity providing certain digital services (online marketplaces, search engines, cloud computing) subject to the NIS framework.
directive SRI / NIS2	NIS2 Directive	The EU directive on the security of network and information systems, broadening cybersecurity obligations across a wider range of sectors and entities.
logiciel malveillant	malware	Software designed to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorized access to a computer system.
rançongiciel	ransomware	Malware that encrypts a victim's data and demands payment for restoration of access.
hameçonnage	phishing	A fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information by disguising as a trustworthy entity in electronic communications.
ingénierie sociale	social engineering	The psychological manipulation of individuals into performing actions or divulging confidential information.
attaque par déni de service (DDoS)	distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack	A cyberattack in which multiple compromised systems flood a target with traffic, rendering it unavailable to legitimate users.
vulnérabilité zero-day	zero-day vulnerability	A software vulnerability unknown to the vendor and unpatched at the time it is exploited.
correctif de sécurité	security patch	A software update that addresses a specific security vulnerability.
pare-feu	firewall	A network security system that monitors and controls incoming and outgoing traffic based on predetermined security rules.

réseau privé virtuel (VPN)	virtual private network (VPN)	A technology that creates a secure, encrypted connection over a less secure network, such as the internet.
segmentation réseau	network segmentation	The practice of dividing a computer network into smaller segments to improve security and limit the spread of attacks.
informatique en nuage	cloud computing	The delivery of computing services, including storage and processing, over the internet rather than on local servers.
hameçonnage ciblé (spear phishing)	spear phishing	A targeted phishing attack directed at a specific individual or organization.
usurpation d'identité	identity theft	The fraudulent acquisition and use of a person's identifying information, typically for financial gain.
fraude au président	CEO fraud / business email compromise (BEC)	A scam in which an attacker impersonates a senior executive to induce an employee to make a fraudulent payment or disclose sensitive information.
cyber-assurance	cyber insurance	Insurance coverage protecting organizations against losses resulting from cyber incidents, including data breaches and business interruption.
exercice de simulation de crise	cyber crisis simulation exercise	A practical exercise testing an organization's incident response capabilities against a simulated cyberattack scenario.
centre opérationnel de sécurité	security operations center (SOC)	A centralized unit responsible for continuous monitoring and analysis of an organization's security posture.
renseignement sur les menaces	threat intelligence	Information about existing or emerging threats used to inform security decisions.
certification de sécurité (ISO 27001)	security certification (ISO 27001)	An international standard specifying requirements for an information security management system, used to demonstrate organizational security maturity.
attaque de la chaîne d'approvisionnement	supply chain attack	A cyberattack that targets less-secure elements in a supply chain to compromise a more secure downstream target.

8. Les technologies et l'IA — Technology and AI

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
intelligence artificielle (IA)	artificial intelligence (AI)	Software that, for a given set of human-defined objectives, generates outputs such as predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing the environments it interacts with.
règlement sur l'intelligence	EU Artificial Intelligence Act	The EU regulation establishing a risk-based legal framework for Union.
système d'IA à haut risque	high-risk AI system	An AI system, as categorized under the AI Act, that poses significant risks to health, safety, or fundamental rights and is subject to strict compliance obligations.
apprentissage automatique	machine learning	A subset of AI in which systems improve their performance on a task through experience, without being explicitly programmed for that task.
apprentissage profond	deep learning	A subset of machine learning using multi-layered neural networks to model complex patterns in data.

modèle de fondation	foundation model	A large-scale AI model trained on broad data that can be adapted to a wide range of downstream tasks.
IA générative	generative AI	AI systems capable of generating new content, such as text, images, or code, in response to prompts.
biais algorithmique	algorithmic bias	Systematic and unfair discrimination embedded in or produced by an algorithm, often reflecting biases in training data.
explicabilité de l'IA	AI explainability	The degree to which the internal workings and outputs of an AI system can be understood by humans.
système de décision automatisée	automated decision-making system	A system that makes decisions through technological means without direct human involvement.
robot conversationnel	chatbot	A software application that conducts conversation via text or voice, often using AI to interpret and respond to user input.
objets connectés (IoT)	Internet of Things (IoT)	The network of physical devices embedded with sensors and software enabling them to connect and exchange data.
informatique quantique	quantum computing	A type of computing using quantum-mechanical phenomena to perform operations on data, with significant implications for cryptography.
registre distribué (blockchain)	blockchain / distributed ledger technology	A decentralized digital ledger recording transactions across a network of computers, designed to be resistant to modification.
crypto-actif	crypto-asset	A digital representation of value or rights that can be transferred and stored electronically using distributed ledger technology.
règlement MiCA	Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCA)	The EU regulation establishing a harmonized framework for the issuance and trading of crypto-assets within the EU.
identité numérique	digital identity	A set of attributes and credentials that uniquely identify a person, organization, or device in the digital environment.
signature électronique	electronic signature	Data in electronic form that is attached to or logically associated with other data and used by the signatory to sign.
règlement eIDAS	eIDAS Regulation	The EU regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions, establishing rules for electronic signatures and identification.
interopérabilité	interoperability	The ability of different systems, devices, or applications to connect and communicate in a coordinated way without effort from the end user.
accès aux données (Data Act)	EU Data Act	The EU regulation establishing rules on fair access to and use of data generated by connected products and related services.
marchés numériques (DMA)	Digital Markets Act (DMA)	The EU regulation imposing obligations on large online platforms designated as 'gatekeepers' to ensure fair and open digital markets.
services numériques (DSA)	Digital Services Act (DSA)	The EU regulation establishing rules for online intermediaries and platforms regarding illegal content, transparency, and user protection.
plateforme en ligne	online platform	A digital service that facilitates interactions between two or more separate sets of users, such as marketplaces, app stores, and social networks.

moteur de
recommandation

recommender system

An algorithmic system that suggests content, products, or connections to users based on their data and behavior.

9. Les contrats et la responsabilité — Contracts and Liability

Contractual and liability concepts in data protection and technology agreements.

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
contrat de prestation de services informatiques	IT services agreement	A contract governing the provision of information technology services.
contrat de licence de logiciel	software license agreement	A contract granting rights to use software subject to specified terms and restrictions.
contrat d'hébergement	hosting agreement	A contract governing the provision of server space and related services for storing data or running applications.
contrat d'informatique en nuage	cloud services agreement (SaaS)	A contract governing the provision of software-as-a-service or security commitments.
accord de niveau de service	service level agreement (SLA)	A contractual commitment defining the expected level of non-compliance.
clause de responsabilité	liability clause	A contractual provision allocating responsibility and potential damages between parties for breaches of the agreement.
clause de limitation de responsabilité	limitation of liability clause	A contractual provision capping the amount or types of damages recoverable for breach of the agreement.
clause d'indemnisation	indemnification clause	A contractual provision under which one party agrees to compensate the other for specified losses, including those arising from data breaches.
responsabilité conjointe	joint controllership	An arrangement where two or more controllers jointly determine the purposes and means of processing.
clause d'audit	audit clause	A contractual provision granting one party the right to audit the other's compliance with specified obligations, common in data processing agreements.
clause de réversibilité	reversibility clause	A contractual provision addressing the return or transfer of data and assets upon termination of a services agreement, particularly relevant for cloud contracts.
propriété des données	data ownership	The contested legal concept of whether and how rights akin to ownership can attach to data, particularly relevant in data-sharing agreements.
licence de données	data license	A contractual grant of rights to access, use, or exploit a defined dataset, subject to specified conditions.
conditions générales d'utilisation	terms of use / terms of service	The contractual terms governing a user's access to and use of a website, application, or service.
conditions générales de vente	terms and conditions of sale	The contractual terms governing the sale of goods or services, including pricing, delivery, and warranties.

garantie de conformité (biens et services numériques)	conformity guarantee (digital goods and services)	A statutory guarantee under EU consumer law requiring digital goods and services to conform to the contract, including ongoing updates.
clause de propriété intellectuelle	IP ownership clause (software)	A contractual provision determining ownership of intellectual property created or used in the course of the agreement.
code source	source code	The human-readable instructions of a computer program before compilation; ownership and access rights are frequently negotiated in technology contracts.
dépôt en séquestre du code	source code escrow	An arrangement under which source code is held by a neutral conditions, such as the vendor's insolvency.
clause de non-responsabilité	disclaimer clause	A contractual provision excluding or limiting a party's liability for specified matters, such as the accuracy of information provided.
clause de force majeure	force majeure clause	A contractual provision excusing performance where an unforeseeable event beyond a party's control prevents fulfillment of obligations.
preuve électronique	electronic evidence	Data stored or transmitted in digital form that may be used as evidence in legal proceedings.
horodatage	timestamping	The process of recording the time at which an event or transaction occurred, often used to establish the chronology and integrity of electronic records.
conservation des preuves	litigation hold	An obligation to preserve documents and data that may be deletion.
due diligence informatique	IT due diligence	The investigation of a target company's information systems, data assets, and compliance posture conducted prior to a transaction.

10. Les sanctions et le contentieux — Sanctions and Litigation

Enforcement mechanisms, sanctions, and litigation relating to data protection and technology law.

Terme français	English equivalent	Note
formation restreinte (CNIL)	CNIL sanctions committee	The CNIL body responsible for adopting corrective measures and sanctions, including administrative fines, against organizations found in breach of data protection law.
amende administrative (RGPD)	GDPR administrative fine	A financial penalty that can reach up to EUR 20 million or 4% of global annual turnover, whichever is higher, for the most serious GDPR infringements.
injonction de mise en conformité	compliance order	A binding order issued by a supervisory authority requiring an organization to bring its processing operations into compliance within a specified period.
limitation temporaire ou définitive du traitement	temporary or permanent limitation on processing	A corrective measure available to supervisory authorities, including a ban on processing, imposed in response to GDPR violations.
publicité de la sanction	publication of the sanction	The practice of a supervisory authority publishing its enforcement decisions, including the identity of the sanctioned organization, often with significant reputational impact.

recours en annulation	action for annulment	A legal action seeking to have a decision of a public authority, including a supervisory authority, declared void.
recours indemnitaire	action for damages	A legal action seeking monetary compensation for harm suffered, including harm resulting from a data protection violation.
question préjudicielle (CJUE)	preliminary reference (CJEU)	A procedure by which a national court refers a question on the interpretation of EU law to the Court of Justice of the European Union.
contentieux administratif	administrative litigation	Legal proceedings before administrative courts challenging decisions of public authorities, including supervisory authorities.
action de groupe (RGPD)	class action	A lawsuit brought by one or more representative plaintiffs on behalf of a larger group with similar claims; permitted in France for data protection matters under specific conditions since 2016. Note: distinct from the more specific entry in Section 3 ('action de groupe en matière de données'), which refers to the dedicated GDPR collective action mechanism.
mesure provisoire	interim measure	A temporary order issued by a court or authority pending the outcome of proceedings, such as a temporary suspension of processing.
astreinte	periodic penalty payment	A financial penalty imposed for each day or period of continued non-compliance with an order, used to compel enforcement.
responsabilité du fait des	product liability	Liability for damage caused by a defective product, increasingly EU rules.
directive sur la responsabilité du fait de l'IA	AI Liability Directive	A proposed EU directive aimed at adapting civil liability rules to damage caused by AI systems.
autorité de surveillance du	market surveillance authority (AI Act)	The national authority responsible for monitoring compliance of AI Act.
organisme d'évaluation de la	conformity assessment body	An entity authorized to assess whether a product, including before being placed on the market.
notification obligatoire d'inciden	t mandatory incident reporting (NIS2)	The obligation under the NIS2 Directive for covered entities to within specified timeframes.
responsabilité pénale	criminal liability (cybercrime)	Personal criminal liability for offenses such as unauthorized malware.
accès frauduleux à un système de traitement automatisé de	unauthorized access to a computer system	A French criminal offense covering unauthorized access to or remaining within an automated data processing system. US Act (CFAA).
atteinte au secret des correspondances	violation of the secrecy of correspondence	A criminal offense covering the unauthorized interception or disclosure of electronic communications.
collecte déloyale de données	unfair data collection	A criminal and civil offense under French law covering the collection of personal data by fraudulent, unfair, or unlawful means.
défaut de sécurisation des	failure to secure data	A criminal offense under French law for failing to take distinct from the administrative GDPR sanction.

recours collectif transfrontalier	cross-border collective redress	A mechanism enabling consumers or data subjects from multiple EU member states to seek collective remedies for infringements affecting them across borders.
médiation (litige numérique)	mediation (digital dispute)	An alternative dispute resolution process used to resolve disputes relating to data protection, e-commerce, or technology contracts without litigation.
clause attributive de juridiction (litige numérique)	jurisdiction clause (digital dispute)	A contractual provision designating the courts competent to hear disputes arising under the agreement.

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