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DOI: 10.25108/2304-1730-1749.iolr.2026.83.71-77

UDC: 343.1

**National Interests and Artificial Intelligence:
Paradoxes of Interrelation**

Abstract: The existence of certain norms of international law does not ensure that states realize their interests in foreign policy on the basis of the justice declared in legal acts, but rather on the basis of the traditional right of the strongest.

Throughout the entire history of humankind, military power has remained a decisive factor in international politics. Everyone claims that they want to live in peace; however, forceful methods of resolving disputes and contradictions remain among the most widespread and effective.

Keywords: national interests; artificial intelligence; interrelation; power; international law; Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, human rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.

As the French philosopher Claude Helvétius wrote, “on earth, interest is the all-powerful magician that changes, in the eyes of all beings, the appearance of every object” [7, p. 34]. The etymology of the word “interest” goes back to Ancient Rome, where the Latin phrase “interesse,” meaning “to be between something,” “to differ,” and “to have important significance,” formed the basis of this term. Later, it was transformed into the legal term “interesse,” which was used by Roman jurists to refer to a payment charged in the form of interest for granting a loan [12, p. 12].

From canon law, the word “interesse” was adopted into the German language with the meaning of “benefit, advantage,” from where, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, it moved into the Russian language and, despite the ambiguity of the concept, is generally used in the same meaning [16].

Taking into account such a serious range of meanings, the category of interest is widely used both in everyday life and in various fields of knowledge, including philosophy, psychology, economics, sociology, political science, jurisprudence, and others. At the same time, representatives of these fields invest in the concept of “interest” a content that, first of all, adequately reflects the subject and method of their science.

It is obvious that despite all the external diversity of social interests, and despite all their multidisciplinary interpretation, they all have a single qualitative foundation, which confirms the statement about the common nature of interest and the general patterns of its manifestation [14, p. 16].

As for law, it finds itself at the epicenter of the problem of interests in terms of their identification, regulation, and protection [11, p. 209].

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In principle, only social/objective interests can be the subject of legal regulation, since interest as a phenomenon of a subjective nature, as a property of the human psyche, cannot enter the legal sphere. In this sense, it simply does not exist for law. The entire significance of subjective interests in law comes down to their identification with the motives of human behavior, with people's various aspirations and impulses, that is, to purely psychological phenomena and nothing more.

Thus, the use of precisely objective/social interests is the most fruitful in the field of law, since only interest as an objective social phenomenon, existing outside and independently of the consciousness of the subject, can be identified, formulated, and ensured through legal means for its realization.

National interests are the organic needs of a nation, determined by its inner essence as a historically formed social community united by sociocultural characteristics and organized into a state [4].

National interests include the interests of the individual, society, and the state, which cannot be reduced merely to their sum. They represent those values of the nation whose satisfaction is a necessary condition for its existence and identity, and whose preservation remains relevant for it under any conditions of time and place.

Such values include: the physical continuity of the people, their sociocultural identity, well-being, and prosperity; a healthy living environment; a geopolitical status corresponding to the cultural, historical, and spiritual traditions of the people; sovereignty; territorial and state integrity; civil peace and internal stability of society; and security.

At the same time, for analytical, organizational, and managerial purposes, national interests are differentiated according to various grounds. In particular, interests are identified in geopolitical, international, domestic political areas, as well as in economic, social, informational, legal, military, border, environmental, and other spheres.

The objectivity of national interests consists in the fact that the very nature of the nation and the conditions of its social existence generate certain needs and require certain actions from it in order to satisfy them. They are subjective because the formulation, awareness, and presentation to the world of the essence and content of national interests are carried out through a community of individuals.

At the same time, interests that are objective in content are subjective in their expression, thereby creating a contradiction: judgment about national interests may be adequate, mistaken, illusory, or false [4].

The normal development of any state depends to a significant extent on how clearly and unambiguously its national interests are formulated and understood, as well as on a clear understanding of the ways and means of achieving them. A comprehensive understanding of the essence of national interests creates the necessary conditions for developing realistic strategic goal-setting in the field of the state's domestic and foreign policy, while their incorrect definition or inadequate interpretation inevitably becomes a cause of the weakening of the country, leading to the destruction of the national community [4].

When building a hierarchy of national interests, all researchers bring to the forefront such indisputable values as "national survival," "self-preservation," and "security," which political scientists define in terms of territorial integrity and political independence. Their main idea is that national interest as a formation is "most closely connected with power, ensuring the external security of the state, as well as creating the most favorable external conditions for its vital activity" [5].

As A. Wolfers notes, “the formulation of national interests has practically become synonymous with the formula of national security” [5].

At the same time, from our point of view, the existence of certain norms of international law does not ensure that states realize their interests in foreign policy on the basis of the justice declared in legal acts, but rather on the basis of the traditional right of the strongest. The value of justice “is merely an additional PR move, rather than a self-sufficient, self-evident value that is presented and declared” [8]. In real practice, relations between states are based on their national interests, and issues of power are not expressed in terms of morality. Even N. Machiavelli stated the fact that politics is based not on Christian dogmas, nor on moral principles, but on practice and experience, where power plays the decisive role [13].

Our time is no exception: as throughout the entire history of humankind, military power remains a decisive factor in international politics. Everyone claims that they want to live in peace; however, forceful methods of resolving disputes and contradictions remain among the most widespread and effective.

Paradoxically, the content of a number of international documents contributes to this.

Thus, a comparative analysis of the “Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law” with UN documents in the context of national interests allows the following conclusions to be drawn.

Criterion of comparison	Council of Europe Framework Convention	UN Documents and Report on AI
Regulatory vector	Strict legal obligations, compliance, in the field of human rights and democracy.	Soft law, with a focus on development, technology transfer, and inclusiveness.
Impact on the economy	Risk of regulatory pressure on national business and the IT sector.	Stimulation of the national economy through international assistance and removal of barriers.
Geopolitical aspect	Reflects the approaches of the Euro-Atlantic region.	Reflects a compromise between the Global North and the Global South.
Application in the public sector, courts, Ministry of Internal Affairs	Strict audit for discrimination; priority of individual rights over state interest.	Balance between the technological modernization of institutions and the preservation of cultural and legal sovereignty.

From our point of view, the main difficulty in implementing the Convention lies in the fact that strict international standards may come into discussion with the practical tasks of national security and economic sovereignty [17].

It is clear that national interests in the field of defense, intelligence, and state security require maximum flexibility and secrecy in the development of military AI systems.

The Convention traditionally does not apply to activities in the field of national security, provided that such activities are carried out within the framework of international law. However, states are obliged to guarantee that the use of AI in these areas does not lead to arbitrary violations of human rights within the country.

Excessively strict regulation, algorithm audits, and strict requirements for data disclosure may slow down the national startup sector and R&D, placing the country at a disadvantage compared with jurisdictions with “soft” regulation, such as the United States or the Asian region.

However, the text of the Convention is formulated as a framework. It sets value-based guidelines, but leaves the mechanics of implementation, such as specific laws, fines, and regulatory “sandboxes,” to the discretion of the national legislator. This allows the state to adapt the rules in such a way as to protect the commercial secrets of developers and stimulate innovation.

The creation of supranational mechanisms for monitoring AI may be perceived as interference in the internal affairs of the state. In this regard, the Convention relies on the creation of independent national oversight bodies. Thus, control remains within the state legal system, but must comply with general European standards of transparency.

The relationship between the principles of the Convention and national interests can be presented as follows.

Principle of the Convention	National interest of the state	Mechanism for finding balance
Rule of law and justice	Prevention of AI errors in judicial and administrative decisions.	Use of AI only as an auxiliary tool; the final decision always remains with a human being, human-in-the-loop.
Transparency and explainability	Protection of intellectual property, commercial secrets, and IT security.	Gradation of requirements: maximum transparency in the public sector, such as social benefits and courts, and a flexible regime for commercial B2B solutions.
Respect for human dignity	Ensuring social peace and protecting vulnerable groups of citizens.	Prohibition of the use of AI for total social scoring, assessment of citizens' behavior, following the model of some authoritarian systems.

It appears that at present the main task of national legal sciences and legislators is to find the “golden mean” between strict control over the observance of citizens' rights and the preservation of space for technological maneuver in the economy and security, which is far from simple.

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The article was submitted: 2026 May 05

Accepted for publication: 2026 May 23

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DOI: 10.25108/2304-1730-1749.iolr.2026.83.71-77

УДК: 343.1

**Национальные интересы и искусственный интеллект:
парадоксы соотношения**

Аннотация: Существование определенных норм международного права не обеспечивает реализацию государствами своих интересов во внешней политике на основе декларируемой в юридических актах справедливости, а на основании традиционного права сильнейшего.

На протяжении всей истории человечества, военная сила остается решающим фактором международной политики. Все утверждают, что хотят жить в мире, однако, силовые методы разрешения споров и противоречий остаются одними из самых распространенных и действенных.

Ключевые слова: национальные интересы; искусственный интеллект; соотношение; сила; международное право; Рамочная конвенция Совета Европы об искусственном интеллекте, правах человека, демократии и верховенстве закона.

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Дата поступления: 05 мая 2026 г.

Дата принятия в печать: 23 мая 2026 г.

Qəti Ə.L., Şirəliyev İ.A.*

DOI: 10.25108/2304-1730-1749.iolr.2026.83.71-77

UOT: 343.1

Milli maraqlar və süni intellekt: qarşılıqlı əlaqənin paradoksları

Xülasə: Müəyyən beynəlxalq hüquq normalarının mövcudluğu dövlətlərin xarici siyasətdə öz maraqlarını hüquqi aktlarda bəyan edilən ədalət əsasında deyil, güclünün ənənəvi hüququ əsasında reallaşdırmasını təmin edir.

Bəşəriyyət tarixi boyu hərbi güc beynəlxalq siyasətin həlledici amili olaraq qalmaqdadır. Hamı sülh içində yaşamaq istədiyini iddia edir, lakin mübahisə və ziddiyyətlərin güc metodları ilə həlli ən geniş yayılmış və təsirli üsullardan biri olaraq qalır.

Açar sözlər: milli maraqlar, süni intellekt, qarşılıqlı əlaqədar, güc, beynəlxalq hüquq, süni intellekt, insan hüquqları, demokratiya və qanunun aliliyinə dair Avropa Şurasının Çərçivə Konvensiyası.

Məqalə daxil olmuşdur: 05 may 2026-cı il

Çapa qəbul edilmişdir: 23 may 2026-cı il

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