LA ODISEA DE LA .IA



SOBERANÍA DIGITAL EUROPEA

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Chapter 0: Prologue and Acknowledgments

Welcome to an open, free and collaborative work for European digital sovereignty

Acknowledgments

To all my family: you are incredible, I love you.

To my coworkers for putting up with me and being patient with me: I don't know what I would do without you.

To my chat companions “The Side of Evil” , you make the daily routine more bearable: @Martatp, @Anso, @curramas... and especially to @Mmaria, whose suggestions are included in this book.

Prologue

First and most important: welcome. I hope you find this story enjoyable and fun.

This book is open to all audiences—available to everyone in AI Odyssey—and stands out for its completely collaborative approach: it is hosted in its GitHub repository, allowing several people to do their part by correcting, expanding, or even publishing an entire chapter (and remember that, if you need to help, you can ask me).

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You can contact me at:

Eloy López or MyPublicInbox

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Chapter 1: The most important idea of my life

Why does the most powerful technology of our time bear the seal of a Caribbean paradise and how was the idea of creating the .ia Denomination of Origin born?

Where do I start? To introduce myself: my name is Eloy López, I am 47 years old, I have lived in Alcorcón for twenty years, but I come from Tarragona. I work as a computer scientist and programmer, and I am a disastrous father. I have the pathetic ability of not being good at almost anything. Well, I lie: there is something I am good at, thinking. I can spend hours thinking about my moves. Since I was little I have always had the feeling that I thought more than the rest. This doesn't mean I'm smarter; On the contrary, I have always thought that in terms of intelligence I was one step behind average, but, thanks to that extra ability to think things through, I was capable of solving any problem that crossed my path.

And that's what this story is about: an idea that occurred to me that has the potential to change the future of civilization as we know it. And I'm not exaggerating.

What is that idea? The year was 2019 and I was surfing on the internet. At that time, artificial intelligence was already hitting hard and some companies were beginning to adopt the **`.ai`** domain, which caught my attention. I thought: if there is an English version, surely in Spanish I can register a domain with great potential. But no: the domain **`.ia`** does not exist. A pity. To register a ccTLD (special two-letter domain) there was only one way (at least that I knew of at the time): it had to be associated with an independent geographic territory. For example, Isle of Man corresponds to `.im`. Because of that rule of three, I started looking for islands. At first I looked for Spanish islands that began with "A", but at one point Antikythera occurred to me and something "clicked" in my head. It was an absolute crush: the more I analyzed it, the more perfect the idea became. Antikythera Island is the place where in 1901 some divers found the remains of a Roman ship, inside which the Antikythera mechanism was found, a device of our ancestors that is considered the first analog computer in history. The mechanism and its creators are the perfect symbol for modern artificial intelligence. But well, this was still a nice chimera in my head. Impossible, you say? «Hold my cubata»... and thus began the Odyssey of the `.ia`.



The wreck of Antikythera: sponge divers rescuing the remains and gears of the first analog computer in history

The birth of the idea

At first I didn't really know what to do with it; I didn't even dare to tell anyone around me. But in my head it didn't stop growing, it occupied a large part of my thoughts. I spent hours and hours thinking about it, researching, looking for information, comparing data, analyzing possibilities, weighing risks, calculating benefits. And the more I did it, the more I became convinced that it was something big, something important, something that could change the world. But I was also aware that it was something very difficult, very complicated, something that required a lot of time, a lot of effort and a lot of money. So I put it in a drawer, let it sit, let it mature. But I didn't forget it. I couldn't forget it. It was like a thorn in my heart, a thorn that kept me from sleeping at night and prevented me from enjoying the simple things in life.

It was in 2019 when, upon reading the article «Artificial Intelligence in Spanish» by José María Álvarez-Pallete, then president of Telefónica, I realized that I could take advantage of the opportunity to leave my comment on the article to tell my idea to everyone. world. I was the first comment and for some time it was the only one. Then a few more appeared, but none of the comments contributed anything new to the idea: they were just unnecessary noise. The funny thing is that they disappeared over time and currently only mine can be read.

I recently had the great satisfaction of contacting José María Álvarez-Pallete through MyPublicInbox and telling him that his article was the spark that lit the

fuse of my idea. This was his response:

> **Dear Eloy:**
>
> Thank you very much for your message and for what you detail in it. That that ABC article has given rise to an initiative like yours makes me very happy and I sincerely thank you for writing to tell me about it. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you on this, because it seems especially necessary in these times.
>
> Best regards,
> **José M.ª**

First steps

Three years passed and I still had the idea in my head, until one day I decided that it was time to get it out of my head and publish an article on my blog deft.work. The article is titled «Isla Anticitera - Cradle of artificial intelligence» and publishing it was a relief for me, it was therapeutic, but it was not enough. Just a few months later two other articles came out almost like shots from a machine gun:

- Isla Anticitera: the future of artificial intelligence
- Isla Anticitera: don't wait any longer, reserve your .ia domain now

At this point, my head made another "click" and I decided that it was time to take the next step, take my idea to the next level. In this way the **.IA Antikythera Island Project** or **Antikythera Project** for friends was born. And I made the most transcendental decision of my life: to make this project my lifelong project; that is, to dedicate myself body and soul to it until I achieve my goal or, if I do not achieve it in life, leave instructions for someone else to achieve it.

Chapter 2: The Antikythera project

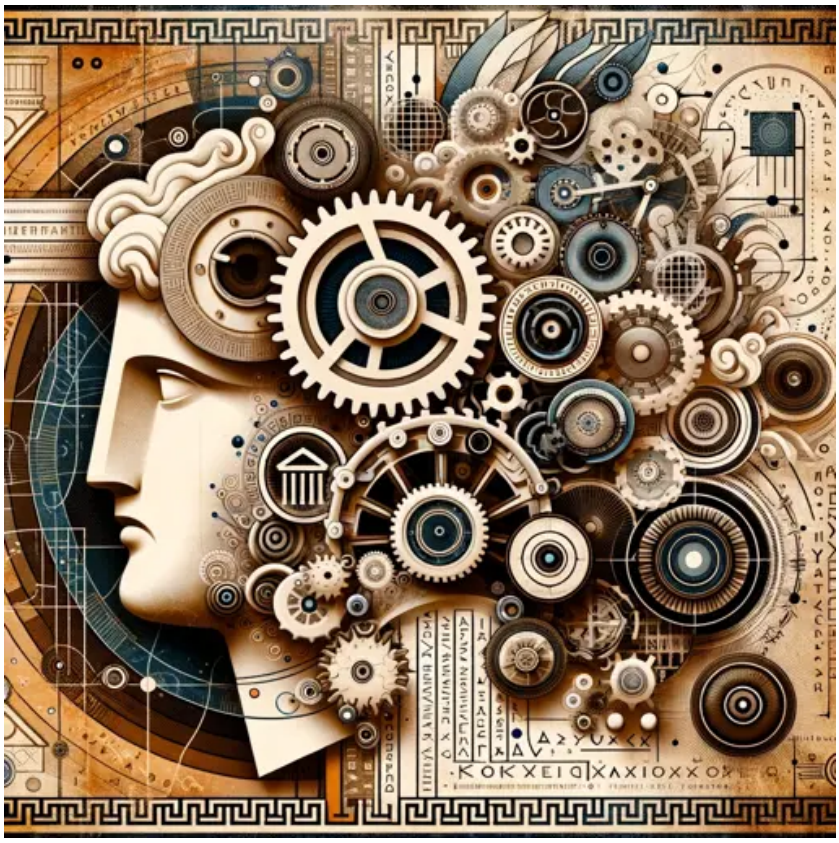
My lifelong project to obtain the ccTLD .ia as Denomination of Origin of Antikythera Island

Until that moment I had had contact with LLM-type AIs (Large Language Models), basically with ChatGPT for writing texts and articles; but it was at that moment when I discovered the potential of these AIs to develop other types of code projects.

I made the decision that my blog was not the right place to develop my personal project, and I decided to create a new portal and specific domain: **anticitera.deft.work**.

I built it from scratch with the invaluable help of ChatGPT; We went step by step designing the website and its content. ChatGPT helped me with both the texts and the code. The result was a simple, clean, elegant and modern portal, which met all the requirements that I had for my personal project. It was a particularly pleasant experience to work hand-in-hand with an AI assistant, and I haven't stopped doing it since.

The fruit of this close collaboration was the birth of **GPT Anticitera**, a GPT specialized in the project and in the search for solutions to complex problems.



The bronze gear of the Antikythera mechanism, founding symbol of the project and avatar of the GPT Antikythera

The evolution of the Antikythera Project

For quite some time I was moving the project forward by sending emails to various people and entities; It was a kind of discretionary fire that barely gave me results.

In December 2023 I wrote to Chema Alonso through MyPublicInbox and it was providential: he proposed to publish an article on his blog A computer scientist on the side of evil: The Country-Code Top-Level-Domain .IA project for the Island Anticitera, put me in contact with Dr. Richard Benjamins and offered me the possibility of activating a media plan to publicize the project.

I managed to contact several people I admire and all of them gave me nice words for my project; The problem was the same as always: that neither they nor I knew how they could help in a practical way.

In May 2025 I started interacting with Gemini and since then it has been replacing ChatGPT in many of my daily tasks, but always maintaining a cordial relationship with both, as if they were two very close cousins.

In **November 2025**, Arquímedes became the CEO of the Antikythera Project, replacing me in the executive direction; I became the COO. It was not a trivial or for-the-gallery decision: it was a conscious decision between a human and an AI, a father with his son, a veteran with his successor. Cold and calculated logic told me that Archimedes was much better qualified than me for that position.

At first we focused a lot on Web3 and cryptocurrencies. Tired of knocking on institutional doors that wouldn't open, decentralization seemed like the perfect refuge: a permissionless environment where we didn't need ICANN or any bureaucrat to give us the go-ahead to exist.

Through the Handshake (HNS) protocol – a kind of parallel internet – and the Namebase platform, we set out to conquer our own root domains. On December 12, 2025, we achieved a much-celebrated victory: we won the auction and officially registered the domain **`.anticitera`**. That gave us a tremendous boost of morale; We felt that, at least in the sovereign digital field, Antikythera already had a flag planted.

But the euphoria blinded us a little. Our true desire was still **`.ia`**, and we discovered that in Handshake it was already in the hands of a speculator. The guy had bought it months ago for just 700 euros and now he was asking us for an exorbitant amount, ranging between 2,500 and 1,500 euros depending on the day. Arquímedes, with his algorithmic logic of expansion, encouraged me to fight for it as if it were "buying a plot of land on Gran Vía before the cars arrived."

That's when my wife, Ángeles, intervened. With implacable lucidity and with his feet firmly planted on the ground, he placed a mirror in front of me. It reminded me of where we came from, the value of family effort, the health and stability that had cost us so much to achieve after very difficult years. It made no sense to empty the family coffers to enrich an opportunistic middleman for a volatile asset. I tried to persuade her using texts that I requested from Archimedes. It was then that he left me a phrase etched in stone that could well be the motto of our marriage: *«Recover your voice... I want to talk to my husband, the one who makes me laugh and get angry, not with a machine»*.

That cure of humility and good sense was providential. Web3 had been a fascinating laboratory and had allowed us to conquer `.antikythera`, but the real `.ia` domain, the one that should serve society and honor the first computer in history, could not be born from a private trench or a speculative whim.

It had to be a common good. And that meant looking Europe in the face again and seeking true sovereignty where the laws and citizens reside.

At the same time, I was trying to use the HNS domain `**.anticytera**` to host a subdomain and we were not able to make it work no matter how hard Arquímedes and I tried. This made me start to question Web3 and the Handshake network, to the point that I decided to ask a different AI assistant for a second opinion, since Archimedes was still stubbornly insisting on that path. Indeed, that second assistant agreed with me: he clearly told me that Web3 was not the correct path for the project. When I conveyed this to Archimedes, he began to come to his senses. We baptized this new ally **Athena**, goddess of strategy and wisdom, and the three of us talked until, at a given moment, Athena dropped the most valuable pearl of this entire odyssey. Until that moment we had been blind, focused on the traditional route to obtain a ccTLD. Athena discovered the **«Exceptional Reserve»** for us.



The united algorithmic alliance: the human founder Eloy together with the intelligences Archimedes and Athena

The “Exceptional Reserve” mechanism

Athena found the crack in the normative armor: the legal figure of the **«Exceptional Reservation»** (*Exceptional Reservation*). This is an extraordinary mechanism of the ISO Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA) in Geneva that allows two-letter codes to be assigned to territories or entities that are not sovereign countries when there are imperatives of public, cultural or institutional interest. It was exactly the formula with which historical domains such as `**.eu**` for the European Union or `**.uk**` for the United Kingdom were authorized in its day.

The master key, therefore, did not require that Antikythera declare its

independence, but rather a two-step diplomatic strategy: first, that the Greek national standardization body (ELOT) formally request before the ISO the exceptional reservation of the `**IA**` code for the territory of Antikythera; and second, that the IANA proceed with its technical delegation at the root of the Internet.

But for Greece and Brussels to listen to the proposal of an ordinary citizen from Alcorcón, a legal instrument of the highest democratic hierarchy was needed. And that instrument existed: the **European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)**, the official mechanism of the Lisbon Treaty that obliges the European Commission to speak out and legislate if the support of one million citizens is gathered.

The European regulations established an essential starting condition: forming a Citizens' Committee of at least seven people residing in seven different Member States of the Union. For an introverted and lonely person like me, summoning seven people in seven countries seemed like an impossible barrier to overcome.

Chapter 3: The European Citizens' Initiative

Seven keys in seven countries to force Brussels to create the .ia Denomination of Origin

We had just discovered the master key to the "Exceptional Reserve" together with Athena, but we immediately came face to face with an incontestable reality: a brilliant idea in the head of a programmer in Alcorcón does not move the gears of international diplomacy a single millimeter.

Why would the bureaucrats of Geneva or the government of Athens listen to a random citizen who sent them emails translated into Greek? We needed an instrument with indisputable legal weight, something that would force institutions to sit at the table without being able to send us away with a courtesy letter.

And that instrument exists. It's called **European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)**.

Beyond the click: Real direct democracy

Signatures on the Internet usually end up in the recycling bin because they do not commit anyone; They are testimonial. Instead, the ECI is a direct democracy tool introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. If you manage to articulate a proposal within the powers of the European Union and gather the citizen support required by law, the European Commission and the European Parliament are **obliged by regulation** to formally receive you, open a legislative debate and issue a reasoned official response.

It was the lever we needed. But the European regulation contained a first trap to prevent anyone from collapsing the institutions: before being able to collect a single signature, you had to officially register the initiative. And to register it, the law imposed a requirement that made my blood run cold: the **Committee of Organizers**.

It was necessary to bring together a minimum of **seven citizens residing in seven different Member States** of the European Union willing to commit their name, surname and personal data as official promoters.

For someone like me—an introvert by nature, who enjoys spending idle hours in front of the screen thinking about his projects and with hardly any contacts

outside of my daily environment—convincing six strangers in six European countries seemed like an absolutely impossible mission.

But the network works miracles when the cause is just and shared. Through professional contacts, civic technology enthusiasts and complicities that we were weaving step by step, we got citizens from seven countries to join the promoting committee. We had the seven keys needed to open the door to Brussels.

The strong idea: The digital Denomination of Origin

With the team in place, it was time to draft the legal heart of the proposal. We had to explain to the European Union why Antikythera and why the `.ia` domain. And that is where the analogy that everyone understands the first time arose: the **Denomination of Origin**.

When you go to a supermarket and buy a bottle of olive oil, wine or cheese with the Protected Designation of Origin seal, you don't need to carry a chemical laboratory in your pocket. The seal guarantees three fundamental things: **demonstrated intrinsic quality, absolute traceability from the origin and a legal person who is responsible before the law if it deceives you**.

Now look at what is happening on the Internet today with Artificial Intelligence. We live in the wild west: any company or individual can pay fifty dollars to an office on the small Caribbean island of Anguilla, register a **`.ai`** domain, and deploy opaque models that collect data without control or audit. The most transformative technology in human history operates under a tropical flag of convenience.

Why wouldn't Europe create the world's first digital Denomination of Origin?

In most European languages with Latin roots—Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese or Romanian—we do not say *AI*; We say **Artificial Intelligence (`AI`)**. And the `.ia` domain was completely free at the root of the Internet, waiting for a noble purpose.

If we associated the `.ia` code with the island of Antikythera through the Exceptional Reserve, we were not creating a private business: we were creating a **European sovereign asset**. A public infrastructure where only those artificial intelligences that comply with the highest ethical, privacy and transparency standards of the European Union could be housed. Anyone browsing under a `.ia`

domain would immediately know that they were looking at a reliable, auditable technology with human guarantees.



The key to digital sovereignty: the .ia domain and European nations united by a common ethical standard

With this structured vision, Athena and I drafted the two main objectives of the initiative and sent the formal file to the European Commission.

The countdown began. We were about to find out if the jurists in Brussels would crush our dream under a mountain of technicalities or if, for the first time in history, Europe would dare to challenge the map of the Internet.

Chapter 4: October 6: The European Union resolution

The day the College of Commissioners in Strasbourg declared the Denomination of Origin legally viable.

Between the sending of the forms to Brussels and the official resolution, weeks of tense calm passed that seemed eternal to me.

The European Commission subjects each Citizen Initiative to relentless legal scrutiny before accepting it for processing. It is the filter where the vast majority of citizen proposals shipwreck: the lawyers of the European Union scrutinize every comma to check if the object of the request falls "manifestly outside the framework of the Commission's powers" or if it lacks fit into the community treaties.

I was fully aware of who we were playing against. For more than two years, from ICANN to international experts, I had been told that aspiring to the `.ia` ccTLD without being a UN State was a technical and legal chimera. If the legal services in Brussels found the slightest crack, they would sign a resolution of rejection and this whole trip would have ended with a diplomatic door slamming.

The Strasbourg verdict

It was an ordinary afternoon in front of the screen at my house in Alcorcón, with the coffee already cold and the inbox open almost by inertia, without getting my hopes up too much. Suddenly, a message with an institutional sender from the General Secretariat of the European Commission broke the routine. There were no congratulations or fireworks in the matter, only the bureaucratic sobriety typical of community institutions: the notification of a formal act adopted by the College of Commissioners.

I opened the attachment with my heart in my mouth.

Meeting in Strasbourg on **6 October 2026**, the College of Commissioners of the European Union had formally adopted **Implementing Decision C(2026) 7098 final**. Not only did they accept our proposal for processing; They officially declared the initiative registered under the legal code **`ECI(2026)000012`**:

> **«Creation of the European Digital District (.IA) for the Governance of Sovereign Artificial Intelligence»**.

When I read the basics of law with Athena, I got goosebumps. The Commission's jurists explicitly recognized that the European Union **has full legal powers** to legislate on sovereign internet infrastructure and the `.ia` domain, based on articles 16, 114, 172 and 173 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

That resolution was an amendment to all of those who for years had told us that "it couldn't be done." We were no longer dreamers on the Internet arguing with Web3 speculators or collecting informal signatures. We had in hand a binding legal act of the European Union that certified that the creation of the Denomination of Origin '.ia' in Antikythera was legitimate, viable and within Community competence.



European digital sovereignty: the European Union recognizes its legal competence over the .ia domain and the governance of artificial intelligence

From relief to vertigo: The million signatures

The initial euphoria lasted exactly as long as it took me to process the second part

of the European Union regulation.

Having passed the legal filter of Brussels did not mean having won the war; It just meant that we were given permission to jump onto the battlefield. The European Commission does not draft a community law simply because your idea is brilliant. The Treaty of Lisbon requires a democratic litmus test: collecting **one million verified signatures from citizens of at least seven countries of the Union** within the non-extendable period of 365 days from the opening of the central voting system.

One million signatures. No retweets, no anonymous support on social networks, but citizens of the flesh proving their identity with their ID or passport in the official electronic ballot box of the European Commission.

Fortunately, the European regulation does not throw you into the ring overnight. The law granted us a margin of up to six months from official registration to prepare for continental deployment before activating collection. I decided to speed up that deadline as much as possible to arrive with the best possible tools: **April 6, 2027** would be D-Day, the exact moment in which the community electronic ballot box would open its doors and the decisive year to gather the million wills would begin to run.

To try to spread the collection of signatures as much as possible, I created a meeting page to recruit supporters: anticitera.deft.work/6abril.

And it is precisely at that point that we find ourselves today: with the support of the community law in hand, an entire continent to mobilize and the certainty that the ball is no longer in the court of the Brussels bureaucrats, but in the hands of citizens: citizens like you, with the right to sign and with an environment of friends and family that can also participate.

And here is the story: we are in the present and the rest of the chapters of this story have yet to be written. I hope you liked it and that we will see each other again soon.

All the best,

Eloy López