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From:	Presidency
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Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on the Coordinated Plan on the development and use of Artificial Intelligence Made in Europe

Delegations will find attached a revised Presidency proposal for draft Council conclusions on the Coordinated Plan on the development and use of Artificial Intelligence Made in Europe with a view to the discussion by the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) at its meeting on 14 January 2019.

Changes compared to document 15672/18 are indicated in **bold underlined** for additions and in ~~striketrough~~ for deletions.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE COORDINATED PLAN ON
THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MADE IN EUROPE**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING

- the Commission's communication of 13 September 2017 on Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable Industry – A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy¹, highlighting Artificial Intelligence as one of the tools for upgrading industry for the digital age;
- the ~~Council~~ conclusions of **adopted by the European Council at its meeting on** 19 October 2017², which highlighted the need to develop an approach to Artificial Intelligence at European level;
- the Council conclusions of 12 March 2018 on an EU industrial policy strategy for competitiveness, growth and innovation³, which stressed that companies need a continued focus on the innovative development and take-up of key forward looking trends including Artificial Intelligence;
- **the Ministerial declaration of 10 April 2018 on cooperation on Artificial Intelligence, signed by all Member States and Norway further to the Digital Day 2018 event;**

¹ **Doc. 12202/17.**

² **Doc. EUCO 14/17, paragraph 11.**

³ Doc. 7037/18.

- the Commission's communication of 25 April 2018 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Artificial Intelligence for Europe⁴;
 - the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 28 June 2018⁵, which invited the Commission to work with Member States on a coordinated plan on Artificial Intelligence, building on its recent communication;
 - the Commission's communication of 7 December 2018 to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence⁶;
 - the discussions on Artificial Intelligence held in the Competitiveness Council and in the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth;
 - the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 13-14 December 2018⁷, which underlined the need for the Single Market to evolve so that it fully embraces the digital transformation, including Artificial Intelligence,
1. WELCOMES the "Coordinated Plan on the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence Made in Europe - 2018" prepared by the Member States, Norway, Switzerland and the Commission in the context of the work of the *Member States' Group on Digitising European Industry and Artificial Intelligence*;

⁴ Doc. 8507/18.

⁵ Doc. EUCO 9/18, paragraph 20.

⁶ Doc. 15641/18.

⁷ Doc. EUCO 17/18, paragraph 2.

2. UNDERLINES the **crucial** importance of fostering the development and use of Artificial Intelligence in Europe by increasing investment in that area, reinforcing excellence in Artificial Intelligence technologies and applications, and developing and implementing new research and innovation partnerships between industry and academia on Artificial Intelligence, in order to transfer quickly and efficiently new results and insights from ~~fundamental~~ research on Artificial Intelligence to industry **and finally to markets and consumers**; RECOMMENDS **promoting** the development of **key enabling technologies** **and** high-end applications in all economic sectors to **foster economic growth and** help solve the world's biggest challenges from curing diseases to fighting climate change and anticipating natural disasters, to making transport safer, fighting crime, and improving cyber security; RECOGNISES **TAKES NOTE** that Artificial Intelligence applications in **personalised and precision** healthcare, **agriculture** and in autonomous ~~driving~~**vehicles** are particularly promising and ~~impactful~~**can be an example for other sectors**;
3. WELCOMES the Commission's plan to create strong synergies between its Artificial Intelligence strategy and the Union's Space programme as both activities will mutually reinforce each other for the benefit of EU citizens and industry; RECOGNIZES in particular that the exploitation of the wealth of Earth Observation data collected by Copernicus through new Artificial Intelligence algorithms will support critical applications to monitor and fight climate change, as well as several sectors of the economy with the creation of new, innovative products and services;
4. ~~HIGHLIGHTS the importance for~~ **ENCOURAGES** start-ups, **scale-ups** and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to ~~beget~~ involved and contribute to the development and broadest uptake of Artificial Intelligence in the economy; ~~RECOGNISES~~ **STRONGLY EMPHASISES** the need to ensure that every ~~company~~ **enterprise**, small or large, high-tech or not, can grasp these digital opportunities, **whether in relation to data, key enabling technologies or skills**; therefore **STRESSES the importance of assisting SMEs to innovate with Artificial Intelligence technologies through actions such as developing or testing and experimentation for example within application test-beds**;

- 5.** SUPPORTS the diffusion of and access to Artificial Intelligence capacity in each Member State through the Artificial Intelligence-on-demand platform, the network of Artificial Intelligence relevant digital innovation hubs and clusters ~~and the Artificial Intelligence-on-demand platform~~, as well as the development of the network of centres of excellence, via ~~the Cohesion Policy funds and the programmes proposed for the next Multiannual Financial Framework such as Digital Europe Programme, the COSME pillar of the Single Market Programme, the Horizon Europe Programme;~~ **EMPHASIZES the importance of coordinated action in order to maximise the impact of investments made at both national and European level in order to increase the competitiveness of European industry at global level;**
- 56.** STRESSES the need to make ~~for~~ more secure, robust and quality publicly and privately held data being available for the development of Artificial Intelligence technology and to create ~~a~~trusted common European data spaces that will for example enable the development of new products and services based on data; **CALLS FOR the review and/or development of EU rules in relevant areas such as data interoperability and data sharing;** **WELCOMES the development of secure solutions for giving access to data and the integrity of data;** **RECOGNISES the need to build up and strengthen core Artificial Intelligence capacities in the Union, including data resources, trusted data exchange mechanisms such as virtual warehouses of data and libraries of algorithms;** ~~as well as~~ **UNDERLINES the importance of real-size** reference sites for Artificial Intelligence testing and experimentation in the EU, in compliance with the ~~existing~~ EU legal framework;

- ~~67.~~ TAKES NOTE OF the shortages of ICT professionals, **engineers** and Artificial Intelligence specialists in Member States; EMPHASISES the urgency of promoting a deeper understanding of the underlying concepts of digitalization and Artificial Intelligence, ~~acquiring basic digital competences~~, incorporating digital skills with a special focus on Artificial Intelligence into the curricula of programmes for primary and secondary education and, increasing the availability of high-quality ICT curricula, with stronger focus on automation and Artificial Intelligence as well as software reliability and security, in tertiary education; UNDERLINES the need for scaling up existing efforts to mature the ICT profession, vocational training and lifelong learning in the area of Artificial Intelligence **while promoting diversity within the sector; STRESSES the need for specific actions at Union level to retain Artificial Intelligence researchers and specialists in Europe, complementary to national measures**; CALLS FOR a broader approach towards an education for Artificial Intelligence, science, technology, engineering and mathematics at all levels;
- ~~78.~~ CALLS on Member States **and the Commission** to exchange best practices on how to reinforce excellence to retain and attract talents in **and to the** EU, to perform and foster the uptake of Artificial Intelligence; WELCOMES the intention of the Commission to support Masters and PhDs in Artificial Intelligence, as well as **the proposal to introduce Artificial Intelligence modules in** interdisciplinary joint degrees, for example in law or psychology areas combined with Artificial Intelligence;
- ~~89.~~ ENCOURAGES public administrations in Europe to contribute to the development of Artificial Intelligence-enabled solutions and services and make them available to citizens and businesses with the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of services delivered, inter alia through and in public procurement; WELCOMES the intention of the Commission to explore the use of Artificial Intelligence in the monitoring and enforcement of Single Market rules for goods, services and people; ~~SUPPORTS~~**APPRECIATES** the readiness of the Commission to assist public buyers willing to buy Artificial Intelligence-enabled and cybersecurity solutions and services, in particular with setting up an assistance hub;

~~9~~10. TAKES NOTE of the possible disruptive impact that Artificial Intelligence will have on the current labour market, in particular in industrial sectors; LOOKS FORWARD to the report that will be delivered by the *High-Level expert group* on the impact of the digital transformation on EU labour markets in spring 2019;

~~10~~11. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of ensuring trust for the full respect of the European citizen's rights and reliable business-to-business relations by implementing ethics guidelines for the development and use of Artificial Intelligence within the European Union and at a global level, as well as the importance of making ethics in Artificial Intelligence a competitive advantage for European industry; **CALLS FOR** reviewing the existing ~~national and European~~ legal frameworks including for safety and liability in line with the principles of Better Regulation with a view to adapting them to the new opportunities and challenges raised by Artificial Intelligence, and ~~by~~for establishing appropriate cyber security requirements for Artificial Intelligence; **SUPPORTS the Commission's effort to bring an ethical approach to the global stage**; WELCOMES the publication of the first draft of the ethics guidelines by the *High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence* and looks forward to the final version; ~~SUPPORTS the Commission's effort to bring an ethical approach to the global stage~~ **TAKES NOTE OF the recent initiative of the International Panel on Artificial Intelligence**;

~~11~~12. SUPPORTS the actions proposed in the Coordinated Plan as regards the exchange of best practices, the achievement of synergies and a closer and more efficient cooperation across the Union, ~~and the maximisation of the impact of investments in Artificial Intelligence at Union and national level in order to increase the competitiveness of European industry at the global level~~; RECOGNISES the efforts of the *Member States' Group on Digitising European Industry and Artificial Intelligence* in coordinating Member States' actions in the different policy areas through the relevant Member States' groups;

- ~~12~~**13.** WELCOMES the intention of Member States to put in place, by the end of 2019, national Artificial Intelligence strategies or programmes, or to include Artificial Intelligence dimensions in other relevant strategies and programmes, by outlining investment levels and implementation measures; ~~ENCOURAGES~~**SUPPORTS** the efforts of Member States to place European companies among the drivers of Artificial Intelligence worldwide; **STRONGLY ENCOURAGES all economic actors to step up investments in Artificial Intelligence;**
- ~~13~~**14.** UNDERLINES the horizontal role given to the Competitiveness Council, **supported by the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth,** with respect to mainstreaming industrial competitiveness across all EU policy areas, including in the field of Artificial Intelligence **while acknowledging that ethical and security aspects of Artificial Intelligence fall under the remit of other Council formations;** STRESSES that the ~~Competitiveness Council together with,~~ **on the basis of the work carried out by** the *Member States' Group on Digitising European Industry and Artificial Intelligence*, should play a key role in monitoring the implementation and annual updating of the *Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence*, ~~while taking into account that ethical and security aspects of Artificial Intelligence fall under the remit of other Council formations.~~
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