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NOTE

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

Delegations will find attached a 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 7 January 2019.

**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 Strategy, highlighting Artificial Intelligence as one of the tools for upgrading industry for the digital age;
- the Council conclusions of 19 October 2017, 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 innovation¹, which stressed that companies need a continued focus on the innovative development and take-up of key forward looking trends including Artificial Intelligence;
- 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 Europe²;
- the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 28 June 2018³, which invited the Commission to work with Member States on a coordinated plan on Artificial Intelligence, building on its recent communication;

¹ Doc. 7037/18.

² Doc. 8507/18.

³ Doc. EUCO 9/18, paragraph 20.

- 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 Intelligence⁴;
 - 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 2018⁵, 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*;
 2. UNDERLINES the 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; RECOMMENDS the development of high-end applications in all economic sectors to 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 that Artificial Intelligence applications in healthcare and in autonomous driving are particularly promising and impactful.

⁴ COM(2018) 795 final.

⁵ Doc. EUCO 17/18, paragraph 2.

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 start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to be involved and contribute to the development and broadest uptake of Artificial Intelligence in the economy; RECOGNISES the need to ensure that every company, small or large, high-tech or not, can grasp these digital opportunities; SUPPORTS the diffusion of and access to Artificial Intelligence capacity in each Member State through the network of Artificial Intelligence digital innovation hubs and clusters and the Artificial Intelligence-on-demand platform 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.
5. STRESSES the need to make more data available for the development of Artificial Intelligence technology and to create a common European data space as well as reference sites for Artificial Intelligence testing and experimentation in the EU, in compliance with the existing EU legal framework;

6. TAKES NOTE OF the shortages of ICT professionals 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; CALLS FOR a broader approach towards an education for Artificial Intelligence, science, technology, engineering and mathematics at all levels;
7. CALLS on Member States to exchange best practices on how to reinforce excellence to retain and attract talents in 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 interdisciplinary joint degrees, for example in law or psychology areas combined with Artificial Intelligence;
8. 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 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. 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. 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 reviewing the existing national and European legal frameworks with a view to adapting them to the new opportunities and challenges raised by Artificial Intelligence, and by establishing appropriate cyber security requirements for Artificial Intelligence; 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.
11. 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. 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 the efforts of Member States to place European companies among the drivers of Artificial Intelligence worldwide.
13. UNDERLINES the horizontal role given to the Competitiveness Council with respect to mainstreaming industrial competitiveness across all EU policy areas, including in the field of Artificial Intelligence; STRESSES that the Competitiveness Council together with 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.