



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — A coordinated plan on artificial intelligence {COM(2018) 795 final}.

This coordinated plan forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to foster trustworthy Artificial Intelligence for Europe, based on the Strategy Artificial Intelligence for Europe of 25 April 2018 {COM(2018) 237 final}.

The Commission appreciates that the Camera Deputaților decided to analyse the coordinated plan and welcomes the support for the proposed measures.

The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Camera Deputaților regarding accountability in relation to ethical aspects of Artificial Intelligence. The Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence were prepared by the high-level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, an independent expert group established by the Commission in June 2018, consisting of 52 representatives from academia, civil society and industry. The document, presented on 9 April 2019, is meant to offer guidance to the Artificial Intelligence community on how to ensure that the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Union is ethical and trustworthy, and the community can voluntarily apply the guidance. The document considers accountability as one of seven key requirements for realising trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.

The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților recommends extensive and structured consultations with the business sector in order to analyse the current needs and obstacles to the use of this technology in the Single Market and internationally. For June and November 2019, the Commission is scheduling extensive and structured discussions with the stakeholder and business community on the best investment strategy

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for Europe's competitiveness. Discussions will inter alia focus on the needs of companies in general and start-ups in particular, including questions of financial support, regulation respectively deregulation when it comes to barriers to market entry and market fragmentation, and how to retain talent and excellence in Europe. The Commission in particular welcomes the support of the Camera Deputaţilor to strengthening start-ups and their access to funding, including through the InvestEU funding.

The Commission takes note of the Camera Deputaţilor support for continued flexibility in the labour market. Regarding the impact of digital transformation on the EU labour market, on 8 April the high-level group on the impact of digital transformation on EU labour markets has handed over its list of recommendations. According to these recommendations, labour relations should intensify and a dialogue of workers and social partners should be better organised, especially in the platform economy. Social protection against unemployment, sickness and other life circumstances should be accessible independently of employment status.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaţilor's broad support for innovation, diverse research partnerships and enhancing research excellence. Under the current Horizon 2020 programme, the Commission plans to support networks of Artificial Intelligence excellence centres and proposes to continue such effort in the future under the new Horizon Europe programme. Moreover, from 2021, with the new Digital Europe programme, the Commission plans to shape Europe's digital transformation to the benefit of citizens and businesses. Cooperation between researchers and industry are key in this endeavour.

The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Camera Deputaţilor as regards specific support to Europe's regions remaining below average in terms of innovation, development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence technologies. The European Regional Development Fund aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. It focuses its investments on several key priority areas, including innovation and research and the digital agenda.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaţilor's support for updating the plan. Such update will be done on an annual basis. It will take into account other EU policies, for example in the areas mentioned by the Camera Deputaţilor such as data, space technology, nanotechnology, environmental protection, the circular economy and biodiversity and energy. The regular updates will also take into account technology progress and impact, and adapt policies accordingly. To this, market analyses will be carried out, including a sectorial focus.

The Commission takes seriously the concerns of the Camera Deputaţilor about the usefulness of common indicators to monitor the use and development of Artificial Intelligence in the Union. For Member States and the Commission to be able to monitor progress of the implementation of the plan on annual basis, Member States and the Commission will have to identify relevant investment parameters and comparable benchmarks for uptake, so as to achieve common targets.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future, including in the context of the Romanian Artificial Intelligence strategy.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*