



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 30.10.2020  
C(2020) 7620 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence – A European approach to excellence and trust {COM(2020) 65 final}.*

*Promoting the uptake of Artificial Intelligence and addressing the risks associated with certain uses of this new technology is a priority for the Commission and the White Paper sets out policy options on how to achieve these objectives.*

*The Commission appreciates the Camera Deputaților's emphasis on the need to incentivise an accelerated adoption of Artificial Intelligence and to create Digital Innovation Hubs. To that end, the Commission has launched together with the European Investment Fund a pilot scheme to provide equity financing for innovative developments, and intends to scale up access to finance through InvestEU from 2021 onwards. Furthermore, the creation of approximately two hundred Digital Innovation Hubs across Europe is envisaged in order to stimulate the broad uptake of digital technologies, including by micro-enterprises and start-ups. The Digital Innovation Hubs will be instrumental in helping companies across the economy improve their processes, products and services through the use of digital technologies. They will be selected and financed jointly with the Member States or regions. These hubs should also contribute to convergence among regions, since there will be best practice sharing and common learning among all hubs. The Commission is pleased that Romania is currently actively selecting its candidate hubs.*

*The Commission takes seriously the importance of adopting measures which protect competition and entrepreneurship. An EU-wide regulatory framework would help to avoid fragmentation in the single market and support the competitiveness of European*

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*companies. We also consider support to small and medium-sized enterprises in order to facilitate compliance with the requirements of a future legal framework.*

*The Commission notes that a future regulatory framework on Artificial Intelligence should consider the increasing amount of data and of interactions with the IT environment, and in particular the behaviour of the young generation in the information society. As indicated in the White Paper, the increasing presence of digital technology in people's lives and its potential impact on our society makes it necessary that European Artificial Intelligence be grounded in European values and fundamental rights.*

*We therefore need a set of rules that puts people at the centre. Providing citizens with objective, concise and easily understandable information when interacting with high-risk Artificial Intelligence is a crucial aspect of the effort to build trust and promote the responsible use of this new technology. Furthermore, the Commission appreciates the necessity, underscored by the Camera Deputaţilor, to establish a specific trust framework for medical services.*

*The Commission welcomes the recommendation of the Camera Deputaţilor to hold public discussions during the elaboration of a regulatory framework for Artificial Intelligence, including with the business sector. It also appreciates the importance of establishing a governance structure that does not impose a burden on European taxpayers and undertakings. On 19 February 2020, the Commission launched a broad consultation of civil society, industry and academics, so as to gather views on the issues raised in the White Paper that would inform the next steps of the Commission. The consultation was open until 14 June, and a summary of the results can be found on the consultation page<sup>1</sup>. More than 1250 responses were received, of which over 350 on behalf of a company or a business association. The Commission will continue to ensure that a maximum number of stakeholders – consumer organisations, social partners, businesses, researchers, and civil society organisations – are consulted on the elaboration and further evolution of the framework. The inception impact assessment to prepare a proposal on a Regulation on Artificial Intelligence was open for comments from 23 July until 10 September 2020 and received a further 133 comments<sup>2</sup>. Other opportunities for stakeholders to contribute are open through the Artificial Intelligence Alliance forum, which engages more than 4000 European citizens and stakeholders in a dialogue on the future of Artificial Intelligence in Europe. Moreover, the Artificial Intelligence Alliance Assembly on 9 October offered an opportunity for an exchange with a wide variety of stakeholders on how to build an ecosystem of excellence and trust in Artificial Intelligence.*

*The Commission acknowledges the importance of supporting citizens' initiatives aimed at raising awareness and increasing people's capacity to use solutions based on*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/white-paper-artificial-intelligence-public-consultation-towards-european-approach-excellence>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12527-Artificial-intelligence-ethical-and-legal-requirements>

*Artificial Intelligence. One example is 'Elements of Artificial Intelligence', a groundbreaking online course made by the Finnish technology company Reaktor and the University of Helsinki, which the Commission will make available in all official EU languages.*

*The Commission takes seriously the view of the Camera Deputaţilor that the agricultural sector and rural administrations should be supported in the adoption of solutions based on Artificial Intelligence. In that regard, the action plan through which the Commission intends to boost adoption of products and services relying on Artificial Intelligence will give priority, among others, to local authorities in rural areas. Romania could, moreover, designate a candidate Digital Innovation Hub aimed at supporting the adoption of Artificial Intelligence solutions in the agricultural sector.*

*The Commission agrees with the important role Artificial Intelligence is playing in the Research Programmes. Whilst a dedicated partnership on Artificial Intelligence and Data is considered under the Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme, Artificial Intelligence will also play a role across all parts of Horizon Europe, for example in the context of activities supporting the green and digital transition of the manufacturing industry.*

*The Commission appreciates the recommendation of the Camera Deputaţilor to encourage both non-formal and formal education, and lifelong learning in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The updated Digital Education Action Plan will help increase awareness of Artificial Intelligence at all levels of education and the revised Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence will prioritise the development of skills needed to become fit for the digital transformation. Networks of leading universities and higher education institutes will, furthermore, be created in order to attract the best talent and to offer cutting-edge education. Other initiatives are also contemplated, including the support to sectoral regulators to enhance their skills.*

*The Commission takes seriously the view of the Camera Deputaţilor that the possibilities to standardise the organisation of data and develop public data hubs across European Union should be explored. The Commission has launched a European Data Strategy, which foresees investments in next generation standards, tools and infrastructures to store and process data. Among other things, an enabling legislative framework for the governance of common European data spaces in strategic sectors and domains of public interest will be put in place. This would entail the availability of large pools of data, the technical tools and infrastructure needed to use and exchange data, as well as appropriate governance mechanisms.*

*The Commission takes note of the recommendation of the Camera Deputaţilor for a revision of the European Data Protection Framework so as to take account of previous experience and new risks. Indeed, the Commission recognises that certain uses of Artificial Intelligence may pose new threats to personal data protection. The application of the General Data Protection Regulation will thus be monitored on a continuous basis.*

*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.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič*

*Vice-President*

*Thierry Breton*

*Member of the Commission*