

EN
E-007963/2015
Answer given by Ms Thyssen
on behalf of the Commission
(3.9.2015)

The promotion of technological innovation as a source of growth and jobs for Europe is a key component of the Commission's economic policy, as underscored by the Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe¹. Specific initiatives can support the development and application of Artificial Intelligence, for example, the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme includes a specific action on "Ethical, Legal, Societal and Economical aspects of robotics".

As regards mobility of non-EU entrepreneurs and researchers, the Commission will review the "EU Blue Card" Directive² and it is negotiating a re-cast Directive on Students and Researchers and other groups³ to make it easier for non-EU national students and researchers to enter the EU, find a job or start a business.

To seize the opportunities of technological change and to tackle potential employment challenges brought about by the changing nature of work, the Commission is recommending Member States to reform their educational and training systems and labour markets in the context of the European Semester, supporting peer learning between countries, and working with social partners through social dialogue at European level.

The Digital Single Market Strategy focusses *inter alia* on increasing digital skills in all economic sectors. The Commission will play its role in enhancing the recognition of digital skills and qualifications in Europe and by promoting the use of innovative teaching methods, including ICT-enabled teaching and learning to enhance digital competences⁴. The Commission also facilitates geographical mobility for study and for work in a European labour market which enhances the circulation of skills across Europe.

¹ COM(2015) 192 final

² Council Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009.

³ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, pupil exchange, remunerated and unremunerated training, voluntary service and au pairing (COM(2013)0151 final)..

⁴ See COM (2012) 669 final of 20 November 2012, "Opening Up Education".