

OUTCOME OF THE LATEST AIDA COMMITTEE MEETINGS/HEARINGS



AIDA-AGRI Hearing on “[AI, Agriculture and Food Security](#)”

On **14 June 2021**, AIDA organised, in association with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development ([AGRI](#)), a joint hearing on the future of agriculture and food security in the digital age. The aim of the event was to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on agriculture and farming practices and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The event was divided into two panels in which experts representing academia, institutions and businesses had the opportunity to express their views. The first panel focused on how AI can contribute to a greener, smarter and technologically

advanced agriculture, and the second discussed AI's use in agricultural development and ensuring food security.

It was stressed during the meeting that according to some forecasts, in 2050 there will be 9 billion people in the world which will provide major challenges in food production for the agricultural sector. Artificial intelligence, according to experts, can potentially help in improving the sustainability and production of agriculture, but there are still many challenges that need to be tackled before the full potential of AI in this field is reached. Furthermore, farmers must be included in the discussions on the development of digital farming and it is crucial that they are made aware of the new possibilities that the developing technology brings.

Video recording available [here](#), the working paper available [here](#) and the meeting documents [here](#)



AIDA-ECON Hearing on “[AI and the Financial Services](#)”

On **1 July 2021**, the AIDA Committee, in cooperation with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs ([ECON](#)), held a joint hearing on AI and the Financial Services.

The first panel of the event featured interventions by EU financial regulatory bodies, with speakers from the European Commission, the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA).

The second panel focused on views from business, consumer organisations and civil society, with speakers from BNP-Paribas, NGO Better Finance, and the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC). The hearing discussed issues such as how to ensure financial stability and consumer protection with regard to bias in credit risk assessment, accountability of financial services providers using AI, and the role of supervisors concerning AI applications in the financial sector.

Video recording available [here](#), the working paper available [here](#) and the meeting documents [here](#)



[Exchange of views with Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager](#) on Commission's digital policies

On **6 September 2021**, a joint meeting was held between the [INGE](#) Committee, [IMCO](#) Committee, [LIBE](#) Committee, [AIDA](#) Committee and [EVP Margrethe Vestager](#). The Special Committee on Foreign Interference and Disinformation have debated the Digital Markets Act, the Digital Services Act and EU data and AI strategy with Commissioner Vestager, in charge of A Europe Fit for the Digital Age and Competition Policy.

Ms. Vestager's speech focused on the increasing challenges facing digitalized societies and the obligations that the European Commission is taking to mitigate these risks. Challenges highlighted by Ms Vestager included the threat to democracy through misinformation, dissemination of hate speech, and increasingly unfair market access conditions for small players. To tackle these challenges, the Commission has proposed in the context of the Digital Services Act a framework which obligates online platforms to conduct due diligence regarding their impact on society, elections, and the environment. Additional obligations will exist for larger platforms who will be subjected to an annual audit by public authorities with oversight from vetted researchers to conduct an impact assessment and to manage the risks that their activities may pose to the European economy, society and democracy. An intended aim of this framework, Ms Vestager explained, is to improve the relationship between consumers and large tech players by holding tech companies accountable while empowering consumers to benefit from fairer and more open business practices.

Video recording available [here](#) and the meeting documents [here](#)



AIDA Hearing on "[AI and the data strategy](#)"

On **30 September 2021**, the AIDA Committee held a hearing on "Data Strategy". The hearing was hosted by the AIDA Chair - [Dragoș Tudorache](#) and The EP rapporteur for the INI report on the 'European strategy for data' and AIDA Vice-Chair - [Miapetra Kumpula-Natri](#). The first part of the event featured an exchange of views with the European Commission while the second part featured two panels of speakers presenting perspectives of representatives of industry and civil society.

In the exchange with the European Commission, Mr Kilian Gross outlined key programs and acts that will position Europe as a leader in AI, which included the Digital Decade Policy Programme, the AI White Paper, and the Data Act. Additionally, Mr Gross highlighted targets of the EU set forth in the Digital Compass which cover increasing the number of skilled ICT workers in the EU, increasing connectivity and 5G, and shifting public services to be entirely available online. Lastly Mr Gross explained the Commission's proposal to achieve these targets through an annual cooperation cycle between member states of the EU.

Furthermore, the panels of speakers explored opportunities regarding data sharing, data use, and the link thereof to AI development. The first panel called attention to risks resulting from the increasing use of AI in society particularly in the fields of health, justice, law enforcement, and education. A common conclusion was that the mind-set surrounding the accessing of data must change to allow for increased reuse among different sectors of the economy and civil society. Speakers of the second panel stressed that simply expanding the use of AI should not be a policy priority but rather the focus should be on the development of quality human-centric AI. The reasoning given for this is that a rapid and unchecked expansion of AI in different sectors may overlook complex social issues and serve to reinforce the dominance of big tech companies. Instead, emphasis must be placed on developing human-centric AI which requires an interdisciplinary approach and a data sharing environment.

Video recording available [here](#) and the meeting documents [here](#)



AIDA-TRAN Hearing on [“AI and Transport”](#)

On **11 October 2021**, the Members of AIDA Special Committee and Committee on Transport and Tourism ([TRAN](#)) held a joint hearing on AI and Transport. The event looked at the impact artificial intelligence is already having and is likely to have in the future on different modes of transport.

The two-panel event focused in its first session on 'The impact of AI on transport modes and mobility until 2030' and in the second session on 'EU Transport Policies: How to prepare for AI while minimising risk'. The speakers, representing civil society,

businesses and industry, and academia, highlighted in their opening remarks the possibilities of AI technology in the next decade. A common message shared by panelists was that Europe must increase its competitive strength in the Autonomous Vehicle (AV) market relative to the main player's the United States and China. To increase competitiveness, strongly backing the AV industry is required as well as a large scale cooperation in data sharing across Europe was recommended. Additionally the need for a consistent Europe wide framework regarding liabilities, decision-making algorithms, and safety standards in the context of AV's was strongly suggested by panelists.

Video recording available [here](#) and the meeting documents available [here](#)

LATEST ONLINE EVENTS FOR AIDA MEMBERS AND STAFF

Regular thematic workshops are organised by the AIDA Committee, in association with policy departments and/or other partners. Workshops enable Members to put questions and exchange views with experts on specific AI-related subjects.

AIDA Workshop on [“Academia roundtable on the future of AI”](#)



On **10 September 2021**, AIDA hosted an online "Academia roundtable on the future of AI". The workshop gathered perspectives from academics regarding key AI trends in the decade ahead. The topics covered included AI applications relating to environmental sustainability, creating more human-centric AI, the need for diversity in AI, and the potential of quantum computing in machine learning.

The panel made a variety of suggestions for the shift towards a multi-disciplinary approach aimed at improving the development of AI technology in both academia and at the intersection of academia and business-led research efforts in AI. Such an approach would include international cooperation, support from academic research, and

foresight-based regulation. The panelists also outlined a number of strategies to make Europe a more competitive player in the global market for AI. These strategies focused on increasing the link between academic research and industry development, stimulating innovation through scalable EU wide mechanisms, and attracting and retaining AI talent in the EU. A key conclusion of the panel discussion was that due to the rapidly changing nature of AI technology and markets, a new kind of governance of AI is required which is impactful and non-fragmented.

Materials available [here](#)

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

[Watch the committee meetings live](#)



'Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Decade' Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM)

On **8 November 2021**, the AIDA Committee will organise an interparliamentary committee meeting on artificial intelligence with the national EU parliaments. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange information and best practices on AI related work done at the EU and national level, and to gather further insights and expertise on the latest and future AI developments.

Artificial intelligence (AI), fueled by increasing data availability, evolving algorithms, and growing computing power, has been gaining momentum over the past years, and it is now one of the key topics on political agendas in Europe and the world. In this context, having a dialogue on AI between the European Parliament and the national Parliaments is important.

The draft programme, once available, will be published on the [committee website](#)

Date	Event	Place
8 November 2021	AI Summit - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM)	online
30 November 2021	AIDA hearing on "AI and Bias"	online

AIDA MISSION TO WASHINGTON D.C.

The mission to Washington D.C., will take place 1-4 November 2021. The main themes of interest are:

1. AI and the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC)
2. AI and transatlantic data flows and data sharing
3. State of play of the adoption of AI by the USG and its Federal Agencies.

Meetings are programmed with Members of Congress AI Caucus, the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the White House in relation to the US "national AI initiative" and the "National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force" recently launched by President Biden.

The AIDA committee delegation will also meet representative of the Department of State and Department of Commerce as well as of the Industry, Academia and Civil Society.

AIDA PUBLICATIONS



AIDA has produced a series of thematic "[Working Papers](#)" with the key takeaways from the latest AIDA hearings, including the position of political groups on the topics discussed.

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