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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

with recommendations to the Commission on a framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies
(2020/2012(INL))

Rapporteur for opinion: Lina Gálvez Muñoz

(Initiative – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure)

PA_INL

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. Whereas the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in everyday life and in the workplace is increasing;
- B. Whereas AI offers economic and societal benefits, while at the same time raising a number of challenges;
- C. Whereas AI solutions and robotics are expected to have a strong impact on the labour market¹ and increase the need for specialized labour.²
 1. Highlights the need to thoroughly assess the effects or implications of AI applications in companies and in public administration in relation to workers, jobs and workflows; considers it indispensable as part of this assessment that workers and their representatives are consulted and receive sufficient information before AI applications are put to use;
 2. Points out that AI solutions have the potential to improve working conditions and the quality of life, yet they can also lead to disproportionate and illegal surveillance of workers, discriminatory treatment due to biased algorithms, including gender biased algorithms³ - and they can undermine the dignity and autonomy of people;
 3. Considers that it should be mandatory for users and consumers to receive all relevant information on the ethical aspects of AI applications so that they may make informed decisions;
 4. Stresses the need to ensure that productivity gains due to the development and use of AI and robotics do not only benefit company owners and shareholders, but also society at large, especially where such gains come at the expense of jobs;
 5. Calls for the application of the precautionary principle with regard to new technologies based on AI; underlines that humans must always be in control of AI and that AI decisions must be reversible;
 6. Calls for a legislative framework on the ethical aspects of AI applications in the workplace, especially with regard to workers' rights and working conditions;

¹ STOA, "The ethics of artificial intelligence: issues and initiatives" March 2020

² European Parliament "Encouraging STEM Studies for the labour market" March 2015

³ European Parliament "Education and employment of women in science, technology and the digital economy, including AI and its influence on gender equality", April 2020