



Programme

Joint hearing on the external policy dimension of AI

in two parts:

PANEL I

with the AFET Committee

**AI DIPLOMACY AND GOVERNANCE IN A GLOBAL SETTING:
TOWARDS REGULATORY CONVERGENCE?**

Monday, 1 March 2021 - 16:45-18:45

BRUSSELS - SPAAK 3C50 and remote participation

PANEL II

with the SEDE Sub-Committee

AI, CYBERSECURITY AND DEFENCE

Thursday, 4 March 2021 - 13:45-15:45

BRUSSELS - ANTALL 4Q1 and remote participation

CONCEPT NOTE

How can the EU harness its regulatory leadership in the global race for AI? How does the European vision for this emergent transformational technology measure up against that of the US or China? Can Europe and the United States begin a new chapter of transatlantic digital diplomacy? Is Europe investing enough to stay ahead, or will it be left behind? Recalling that the building blocks of AI raise important legal, political and regulatory issues also in the anti-trust and fair taxation areas, the EU faces further challenges in ensuring policy coherence as it seeks to regulate the tech sector and digital markets in the decade ahead.

In its pursuit of human-centric and trustworthy AI, the EU has an objective of building fair AI systems that serve society and are compliant with existing legal frameworks at national, European and international level. Drawing on its strengths in research, robotics, industrial data, as well as a strong legal framework for data protection based on the GDPR, the EU has the potential to be at the forefront of the global regulatory challenge that will define how the world develops and implements AI technologies.

On 2 December 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy issued a joint communication on a new EU-US agenda for global change. One of the four focus areas - trade and tech - sets out a recommendation that the EU and US enter into a transatlantic ‘AI Agreement’ in a greater drive to strengthen multilateralism and regulatory convergence in the digital economy. Building on the shared value of human-centric AI, the agreement would set a blueprint for global AI standards that is fundamentally values-driven and consistent with the framework of existing legal norms set out in international law. At the European Council meeting of 10-11 December, the Council held a discussion on EU-US relations, highlighting the importance of a strong strategic transatlantic partnership based on common interests and shared values. In the Council Conclusions, Member States expressed readiness to hold talks on these and other shared priorities with the new Biden administration.

Across the Atlantic, similar developments are underway. In a November 2020 Majority Report of the Committee on Foreign Relations, the US Senate set out its vision on how increased EU-US cooperation can “shape the future of technology” and influence global standard-setting, while addressing the risks of lagging behind China in the future development of AI. Meanwhile, the US National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) has been tasked with adopting expert recommendations on advancing the development of AI in a security and defense context. As regards transatlantic cooperation on this front, in its Third Quarter Recommendations to the US Congress, the NSCAI proposed a Strategic Dialogue for Emerging Technologies (SDET) between the United States and the European Union.

In terms of growing cyber security concerns, and in view of the increased vulnerability of both governmental and non-governmental entities to security breaches, as demonstrated by the recent large-scale cyber-attacks in the US, EU-US cooperation on AI-enabled safety and security solutions is also becoming paramount. The new EU Cybersecurity Strategy was adopted jointly by the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on 16 December 2020.

In the field of AI-enabled and autonomous weapon systems, there is also scope for more global regulatory dialogue. From the perspective of international law and ethics, issues of liability,

responsibility, and meaningful control by the human operator for the use of such weapons, as well as agreement on a legally binding definition of LAWS (lethal autonomous weapon systems) remain to be fully addressed. The European Parliament has expressed its position¹ on LAWS, calling for a ban thereof and reminding that the development and use thereof raises fundamental ethical concerns. The European Commission High Level Expert Group referenced the Parliament's position in its Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI.

These and other questions are being examined in the framework of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), where the EU and other partners' views do not necessarily converge, following a number of years of negotiations. It remains to be seen whether international regulatory consensus will be forthcoming.

Against this backdrop, and amidst recent and forthcoming EU legislative activity aimed at regulating AI, the AIDA Committee, together with the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and the Sub-Committee on Security and Defense (SEDE), see an opportunity to deepen the debate on the external policy dimensions of AI and explore legislative measures to support it. Looking at not only the EU-US partnership, but also beyond to strategic rivals such as China, time is of the essence in building regulatory and policy consensus on AI ahead of the EU's 2030 Digital Decade. At its Committee meeting of 1 and 4 March 2021, AIDA intends to explore both the opportunities and obstacles to greater transatlantic AI cooperation, by holding two panel discussions bringing together AI leaders from across government, industry, and international civil society.

¹ European Parliament resolution of 12 September 2018 on autonomous weapon systems (2018/2752(RSP))

PANEL I

AI DIPLOMACY AND GOVERNANCE IN A GLOBAL SETTING: TOWARDS REGULATORY CONVERGENCE?

Monday 1 March 2021 - 16:45-18:45

OPENING REMARKS

16:45-16:55

- 16:45-16:50** **Dragoş Tudorache**, Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA), European Parliament
- 16:50-16:55** **David McAllister**, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

INTERVENTIONS BY:

- 16:55-17:00** **Irakli Beridze**, Head, Centre for AI and Robotics, UNICRI, United Nations
- 17:00-17:05** **Kristin de Peyron**, EEAS Director/Deputy Managing Director for Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues
- 17:05-17:10** **Bruno Sportisse**, CEO, GPAI Centre of Expertise in Paris, National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology (INRIA)
- 17:10-17:15** **Agostinho Almeida**, Head of the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Colombia (C4IR.CO), affiliate to the World Economic Forum
- 17:15-17:20** **Congresswoman Robin Kelly**, U.S. Congress (D, IL)
- 17:20-18:35** **Exchange of views with MEPs (2 min. per political group +2 min. answer)**
- slot 1: **AIDA EPP**
 - slot 2: **AFET**
 - slot 3: **AIDA S&D**
 - slot 4: **AFET**
 - slot 5: **AIDA Renew**
 - slot 6: **AFET**
 - slot 7: **AIDA ID**
 - slot 8: **AFET**
 - slot 9: **AIDA Greens**
 - slot 10: **AFET**

- slot 11: **AIDA ECR**
- slot 12: **AFET**
- slot 13: **AIDA The Left**
- slot 14: **AFET**
- slot 15: **AIDA EPP**
- slot 16: **AFET**

CLOSING REMARKS

18:35-18:45

18:35-18:45

Dragoş Tudorache, Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA), European Parliament

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PANEL II

AI, CYBERSECURITY AND DEFENCE

Thursday 4 March 2021 - 13:45-15:45

OPENING REMARKS

13:45-13:55

- 13:45-13:50** **Dragoş Tudorache**, Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA), European Parliament
- 13:50-13:55** **Nathalie Loiseau**, Chair of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

INTERVENTIONS BY:

- 13:55-14:00** **Mircea Geoană**, Deputy Secretary General, NATO
- 14:00-14:05** **François Arbault**, Director for Defence Industry, DG DEFIS, European Commission
- 14:05-14:10** **Pieter Elands**, Program Manager Unmanned Systems, TNO (Dutch Research Institute)
- 14:10-14:15** **Elizabeth Minor**, Advisor, Article 36 NGO
- 14:15-14:20** **Gilman Louie**, Commissioner, U.S. National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI)
- 14:20-14:25** **Anja Dahlmann**, Head of Project - International Panel on the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons (IPRAW), German Institute for International and Security Affairs
- 14:25-15:30** **Exchange of views with MEPs (2 min. per political group +2 min. answer)**
- slot 1: **AIDA EPP**
 - slot 2: **SEDE**
 - slot 3: **AIDA S&D**
 - slot 4: **SEDE**
 - slot 5: **AIDA Renew**
 - slot 6: **SEDE**
 - slot 7: **AIDA ID**

- slot 8: **SEDE**
- slot 9: **AIDA Greens**
- slot 10: **SEDE**
- slot 11: **AIDA ECR**
- slot 12: **SEDE**
- slot 13: **AIDA The Left**
- slot 14: **SEDE**
- slot 15: **AIDA EPP**
- slot 16: **SEDE**

CLOSING REMARKS

15:30-15:45

- 15:30-15:35** **Axel Voss**, Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA), European Parliament
- 15:35-15:40** **Urmas Paet**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)/ Member of the Subcommittee on Security and Defense (SEDE), European Parliament
- 15:40-15:45** **Dragoş Tudorache**, Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA), European Parliament

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The hearing will be [webstreamed](#).